TODAY'S WEATHER

AMMAN — A rise in temperature is expected, weather will be fair and wind south westerly moderate.

DESERTS

AQABA 12-27 — In Aqaba: weather will be sunny and warm, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Clinton will not change Mideast policies

US HAS LITTLE TO OFFER ARAFAT

Agencies — US President Bill Clinton told Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Tuesday the United States would not change any Middle East policies to help the Palestinians past the May 4 deadline for peace talks.

The Palestinian leader came to Washington seeking assurances that the United States would recognize a Palestinian right to self-determination or help fill the legal vacuum at the end of a five-year period for the peace talks, set in May 1999.

But a senior US official, briefing reporters on a one-hour meeting between Clinton and Arafat on Tuesday, indicated that the United States had little to offer.

"The key thing from our standpoint is that President [Clinton] made clear that we are not going to change our policy positions," the official said.

Asked about recognizing a right to self-determination for the Palestinians, he said: "That's not language that we've used before... We're not going to be changing."

He said he did not believe Clinton and Arafat even discussed the possibility of an independent Palestinian state, an idea the United States has traditionally opposed.

But the Palestinian leader told reporters: "We had a very extensive and in-depth conversation on this issue and I will not elaborate on what took place between me and him [President Clinton]."

The United States did say that if and when Israel and the Palestinians resume talks on the final status of the Palestinian territories, the process should not be open-ended.

The talks, which have had only one procedural session, are meant to end by May 4 but no one now expects any deal by then.

An agreement on extending the deadline could avert a crisis after May 4 and help persuade Arafat not to declare an independent Palestinian state.

President Arafat has repeatedly promised Palestinians he will declare a state but he has since had second thoughts and is looking for a way to convince Palestinians that the time is not ripe.

The US official said: "When negotiations resume, they really need to be on an intensive, accelerated basis, they really have to be conducted in a way that is serious and credible and it shouldn't be open-ended."

He said this would probably be possible only after Israeli elections on May 17 and he was evasive on the time scale.

"We accept the idea that the process should not be open-ended, but we don't accept the idea that you ought to pick a date and that if things aren't worked out by that time, then that settles everything," he said.

"One can certainly create target dates or target periods. We haven't made any judgment in that regard," he added.

Diplomatic sources in Jerusalem said on Tuesday that the European Union was working on a landmark declaration that would support the right of Palestinians to their own state and tell Israel it should not veto its creation.

It would be part of coordinated efforts by the United States and the EU to discourage Arafat from proceeding with the unilateral proclamation of a state on May 4, they said.

But US State Department spokesman James Rubin declined to confirm any special cooperative effort. "We obviously have been talking to others who have sought our views, including European officials. I don't think there's any coordinated strategy of any kind, other than normal contacts," he said.

The spokesman dismissed Palestinian fears that Israel might try to undo aspects of the peace agreements of the last five years if May 4 passes without agreement.

"If both parties are continuing to talk, there's no problem. There's nobody who's going to stand in the way if both the Israelis and the Palestinians want to continue to discuss permanent status issues after May 4," he said.

Arafat described his meeting with Clinton as constructive and fruitful. "The most important thing... was that despite all of the difficulties and obstacles we face today, President Clinton has shown me the determination to protect and to preserve and to move forward in the peace process," he said.

Arafat, in trying to win US support for a Palestinian state, was under pressure from Congress and the Clinton administration to postpone a unilateral declaration of statehood on May 4.

United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, following a 90-minute meeting with President Arafat at her Georgetown residence, said concerns over the date were to be broached

"These are among the subjects we are going to be talking about," Albright said.

Clinton meets Arafat in the Oval Office at the White House, yesterday.

Arafat: US has not relected statehood

Speaking to reporters after meeting with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York, Arafat noted that UN resolution 181, adopted in 1947, refers to a Palestinian state -and he said Annan supports it.

The resolution also calls for Jerusalem to become an international city.

Asked in Arabic about the American rejection of Palestinian statehood, Arafat disputed the question's premise.

"There is no American refusal. As you may remember, President Clinton said in Gaza, 'on their free independent land'," Arafat said, paraphrasing the US leader.

Arafat stressed that the Oslo agreement was not a bilateral accord with Israel but an international agreement also signed by the United States, Russia, the European Union, Norway, Jordan and Egypt in the presence of the UN secretary-general and the Japanese foreign minister.

He accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - of freezing the peace process and said he wants the Clinton administration to help the Palestinians ensure "the thorough and faithful implementation of all... the agreements signed at the White House."

The Palestinians will deal with any threats by Netanyahu, Arafat said. The Israeli leader has warned that Israel will respond "very forcefully" if unilateral statehood is announced.

Palestinian officials expressed concern that if the date was pushed back, as some leaders have advised, it could lead to open-ended negotiations.

"We are just simply asking to fill the vacuum, the political and legal vacuum," said Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator. "There are many legal questions related to May 4 that no one is willing to answer."

Erekat, at an appearance Monday at the Brookings Institution, said the date provided a "light at the end of the tunnel" and a reassurance to the Palestinian people that statehood was an eventual goal. But if the date is cast aside, "do we lose this time ceiling?"

Congress took a tougher stance last week when the House and Senate passed resolutions saying a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state would be unacceptable.

"We need help," Erekat said. "We need others for once to take risks."

EU, Palestinian state draft declaration

The European Union (EU), meanwhile, is working on a landmark declaration that would support the right of Palestinians to their own state and tell Israel it should not veto its creation, diplomatic sources in occupied Jerusalem said on Tuesday.

The move forms part of coordinated efforts by the United States and the EU to discourage Palestinian President Arafat from proceeding with the unilateral proclamation of a state on May 4, two weeks before Israel's general election.

The sources said EU foreign ministers had discussed a draft text at a meeting in Brussels on Monday but had failed to finalize it, casting doubt over whether the declaration would be ready for adoption at this week's EU summit in Berlin.

"The text as it stood was nearly agreed but we would have needed more time," one European source said, adding that telephone discussions on the draft continued on Tuesday.

Diplomats said some member states differed over how closely recognition of a Palestinian right to statehood should be linked to negotiations with Israel and whether a time limit, possibly 12 months, should be put on that process.

Some diplomats said Germany and Britain also had concerns that the declaration might alienate Israelis in the run-up to an election which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is fighting on a platform of opposition to Palestinian statehood.

"There's no point in simply coming out with a statement that has the Israelis saying 'There they go again,'" one senior European diplomat told Reuters, referring to Israel's long standing view that the EU is biased towards the Palestinians.

"We are concerned that we are going to get something that will actually have an effect" on securing a negotiated, final peace, the diplomat said.

Diplomatic sources in Europe say senior US and European officials held talks in London early this month on measures each side could take to dissuade Arafat from a May 4 declaration.

One source said the officials had reached agreement on a "division of labor" under which Washington would commit itself to making a declared drive for accelerated final status negotiations following the Israeli elections.

The EU, in turn, would strive to issue a declaration that recognized that Palestinians were entitled to a state.

EU leaders called on Israel at their Cardiff summit in June 1998 "to recognize the right of Palestinians to exercise self-determination, without excluding the option of a state."

Diplomats said an updated declaration would make clear that a Palestinian right to a state was not subject to Israeli veto.

They said, however, that the declaration had to be formulated in such a way as to ensure that the Palestinians and Israelis would take final status negotiations seriously.

"It is not a secret that countries have to avoid giving Israel a veto," one diplomat said. "As far as I can see, the main point is to what extent do you truly and unequivocally give recognition of a Palestinian state and can you do that?"

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BISHOP OF METROPOLITAN JERUSALEM: NO PEACE TILL JERUSALEM ISSUE IS RESOLVED

BACK PAGE

ISRAEL ANNOUNCES MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PLAN TO TIGHTEN HOLD ON JERUSALEM, ARAB LEAGUE WARNS

PAGE 5

DARAT AL FUNUN OPENS ITS NEW SEASON WITH A SWOOSH OF ABSTRACT ART

NATO ATTACKS YUGOSLAVIA

Agencies — NATO forces unleashed a long-threatened attack Wednesday on targets in Yugoslavia, resorting to massive force after diplomacy failed to bring an end to fighting in Kosovo.

The Yugoslav army, in statements read on official TV and radio in Serbia, said a NATO plane was shot down in Kosovo's Cicavica Mountains, northwest of Kosovo's capital Pristina. Both US Defense Secretary William Cohen and a NATO spokesman in Brussels said they could not confirm a plane was downed.

The NATO attack, its first against a sovereign country in the alliance's 50-year history, came after months of diplomacy failed to bring an end to fighting that has killed more than 2,000 people and left hundreds of thousands homeless in the past year in Kosovo.

Yugoslavia declared a state of war shortly after the first wave of attacks, casting doubts on Western hopes that the Serbs would give in after taking salvos.

At least one Yugoslav army soldier was killed and four were injured in strikes on military installations in Montenegro, the other republic in Yugoslavia besides Serbia, said Dragisa Burzan, vice president of the Montenegrin government.

Several Yugoslav warplanes were shot down Wednesday as NATO began air strikes, German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping said.

Scores of cruise missiles and one-ton bombs were fired at Yugoslav targets. Dozens of warplanes, including six US B-52 bombers and the B-2 stealth bomber, were used in combat for the first time.

The army said more than 20 targets were attacked but Yugoslav air defense units did not appear to be damaged. Yugoslav domestic media said targets included an aeronautical factory near Belgrade, and the country's biggest weapons factory, situated at Kragujevac, in central Serbia. Serbia television aired dramatic pictures of buildings engulfed in flames, with smoke billowing high into the night sky.

Explosions resounded in Kosovo's capital Pristina starting at around 7:55 pm (18:55 GMT), and the city of 280,000 was plunged into darkness when the electricity failed.

In Belgrade, witnesses reported more than a dozen explosions, some near Batajnica military airport and one near a power plant. Smoke rose from the northern suburb of Rakovica, where the independent Beta news agency said a radar station had been hit. Belgrade radio claimed a NATO warplane was shot down over the Cicavica mountains in Kosovo's north. But the Pentagon said there were no losses.

In Montenegro, an army military barracks in Danilovgrad was in flames after being hit.

Explosions were also heard in the area of Novi Sad in northern Serbia, northwest of Belgrade.

The attack was swiftly condemned by the Yugoslav army as unwarranted "aggression" orchestrated by the United States on behalf of ethnic Albanian "separatists and terrorists."

The first explosions, it said, "mark the end of international law and... have opened up a new sad page in world history."

Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered his nation to pull out of its partnership with NATO and warned of possible further steps to protest the airstrikes.

As president and supreme commander, I have demanded an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to obtain an immediate halt to the air strikes," said Yeltsin.

Yeltsin said that his government reserved the right to take "appropriate measures, including a military nature," following the attacks.

In the event of the conflict spreading, Russia's would take measures "to protect its own security and that of Europe generally," Yeltsin was quoted as saying by Interfax.

Only hours before the NATO attack, Milosevic delivered a final message of defiance, urging Yugoslavs in a nationally televised address to defend the country "by all means."

"What is at stake here is the freedom of the entire country, and Kosovo was only the door intended to allow foreign troops to come in," Milosevic said.

Western allies said the door wns open at any time for Milosevic to accept the Kosovo deal.

Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Vuk Draskovic said after the initial strikes that all Serbs were at war with the allies.

"We are not ready to make any difference between the bombs of Adolf Hitler from 1941 and the bombs of NATO," he told Britain's Channel 4 News. "We are completely innocent."

The onslaught, which officials have said could last for days, will initially rely heavily on cruise missiles launched from allied warships in the alliance's Mediterranean fleet.

The aim is to heavily damage Yugoslavia's air defense network before a wider air offensive expected to follow.

More than 400 warplanes are stationed at NATO bases in Italy for the attack. NATO's Mediterranean fleet, which includes eight warships from eight countries, sailed from Trieste.

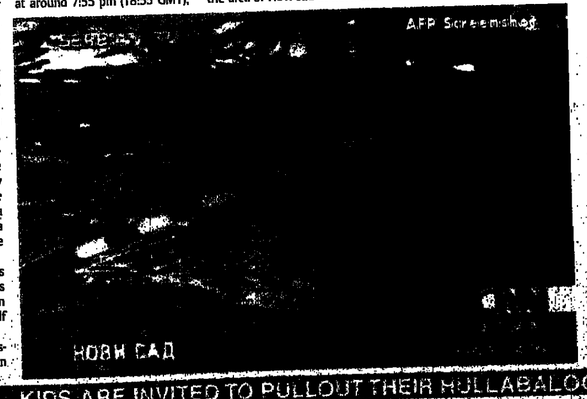
United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan backed Wednesday's air strikes, but lamented that the UN Security Council was not consulted. "It is indeed tragic that diplomacy has failed. But there are times when the use of force may be legitimate in the pursuit of peace," Annan said.

The European Commission's president-designate, former Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, called for a new Kosovo peace conference once the bombing is over.

"After the military action in progress a peace conference becomes indispensable to completely redraft the political situation in the Balkan region," Prodi told reporters.

In Berlin, British officials at an EU summit said eight of the 19 NATO member nations took part in the open wave of attacks — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States.

Neighboring nations were also on alert, concerned about the possibility of war spilling across more borders in the unstable Balkans and about a possible flood of refugees fleeing Serbia and Kosovo.



READ INSIDE: KIDS ARE INVITED TO PULLOUT THEIR HULLABALOO CENTERFOLD PAGES

QATARI EMIR RETURNS HOME

Renews Support to Jordan

THE EMIR OF Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al-Thani thanked His Majesty King Abdullah for the hospitality he was accorded during his visit to Jordan.

In a cable he sent the King upon departure, the Emire said "I would like to thank to extend to my dear brother and to the government and people of Jordan my heartfelt gratitude for the generous hospitality and warm welcome you have accorded me and my delegation during our visit to Jordan."

The Emir praised the excellent harmony in stands and agreement on the issues on the issues discussed during the talks that took place between him and King Abdullah over the past two days.

The Emir once again renewed his country's support to Jordan and wished King Abdullah success in the service of his country, and wished Jordan prosperity under his leadership.

Sheikh Hamad left Amman Wednesday after a two day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His Majesty King Abdullah on ways of further boosting the brotherly ties between the two countries.

His Majesty the King was at the airport to see the Emir and his accompanying delegation off at an official ceremony.

Sheikh Hamad earlier called on King Abdullah and Queen Rania to extend his congratulations to Her Majesty on being proclaimed queen by the King on Sunday — THE ARAB DAILY.

BACK HOME FOR THE EID

AFTER PARLIAMENT APPROVED the General Amnesty Law earlier this week, 2500 prisoners were released on Wednesday from all prisons of the Kingdom.

"According to the General Amnesty Law, we have started releasing prisoners, and we will do our best to release them all before Eid Al Adha," said Major Mohammed Hawamdeh at a press conference at Juwaideh Correction and Rehabitatation Center yesterday.

All prisoners were to be sent to the Metropolitan Police Directorate before they are released, "as a matter of procedure" said Hawamdeh.

Immediately after news broke out of the government's decision to release the prisoners, relatives and parents of the detainees rushed to the prison for hope their beloved would be included in the amnesty.

The remarkable thing however at Juwaideh Center was that many people did not know whether their relative prisoners would be released or not under the Amnesty Law.

"I hope that my son, who's spent five years at this prison for killing a man who tried to rape him, would be released today," said mother of Basel Abu Ghosh.

Another touching scene was a wife,Suhaila, carrying her little child, kept on asking the guards at the prison entrance, if her husband would be set free or not, but received no answer.

"They have not mentioned on the radio or on the television the names of the prisoners who will be released today, and I don't know if he will return home with me or not," said Suhaila.

A similar scene as the one at Juwaideh, took place at the Metropolitan, where families gathered waiting for the moment of reunion.

"Some prisoners will be released late in the evening and some will have to wait for a day or two," said a police officer at the Public Relations Department, who asked to remain unnamed.

by NOURA WAZANI

Photo by Osama Abu-Ghanim

RAWABDEH HEARS UNIONS' DEMANDS

Prime Minister Abdur-Ra'uf Rawabdeh extended a listening ear to the heads of professional associations at a meeting held Wednesday at the unions' headquarters.

"Our country is undergoing a number of challenges that face the new era," said the Prime Minister at the opening of the meeting.

"Some of the problems are acute such as the water shortage, and some are the heritage of the previous governments, but none of these can be wisely handled unless we listen to the others," Rawabdeh told the union leaders.

The Prime Minister and his colleagues at the Cabinet listened to an array of demands ranging from the pure professional to those related to national policies.

Ahmad Qadiri, President of the Dentists' Associations called for conformity in legislation related to the unions, but did not deny that every association has its own character.

Meanwhile, a leading opposition figure asked for an overall review of the national policies and amendments to laws in direct touch with democracy and public freedoms.

"The Press and Publications Law, the One-Man-One-Vote electoral law should be changed," said Fakhri Qawar, Head of the Writers' Union and a former deputy.

Qawar went further to ask for the freezing of the 1994 Peace Treaty between Jordan and Israel.

Most representatives of the professionals called for ceasing normalization with Israel.

"We have great hope in Your Excellency as regards the issue of normalization," said Azzam Huneidi, Head of the Engineers Associations.

On his part, the newly elected Head of the Bar Association, Saleh Armouti, denied the labeling of unionists as an opposition for the sake of opposition.

"We are against certain policies, not people or certain governments. Our ultimate goal is to serve the interests of our people," maintained Armouti saying that they seek to break the ice between the associations and the government.

Photo by [illegible]

Although the Prime Minister was a good listener at the meeting, he insisted political issues be discussed behind closed-doors.

Journalists were asked to leave the hall before the start of the confidential meeting.

Ahmad Qadiri told The Arab Daily later that the closed-door meeting touched on issues of public concern.

"The Prime Minister provided for answers to the issues of peace with Israel, normalization and public freedoms," said the dentist.

Qadiri said the government will respect the associations, whose members will be free to express their opinions or take any stands as long as they are in conformity with the Constitution and law.

by NASER SHAMI

QUEEN RANIA VISITS DAR AL-BIR DISTRIBUTES PRESENTS TO CHILDREN

HER MAJESTY QUEEN Rania visited Al-Bir Orphanage where she checked on the conditions of the orphans and services provided to them at the home.

Her Majesty, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al-Hussein, the director of the home, presented gifts and candy to the children on the occasion of the Eid.

The Queen inquired from the specialists about all aspects concerning the children and gave her directives for maintaining the high standards on which the home was established.

The home was established in February 1997 upon the directives of His Majesty the late King who chose to turn his residence into an orphanage to provide shelter for the less fortunate children of the society.

A total of 180 children live in the home with professional and qualified supervisors taking care of the children as substitute mothers and aunts.

The home provides children with health, social and nutritional care and schooling for the elder ones.

Children who graduate from the home go to the Jordan Armed Forces schools and get military and physical education — Petra.

'VOICES FOR CHANGE, PARTNERS FOR PROSPERITY'

UNDER THE TITLE "voices for change, partners for prosperity" the third Mediterranean Development Forum (MDF3) will be held in Cairo in March of next year.

The meeting was announced at a press conference in Amman yesterday, by director of Jordan Economic Development Association (JEDA), and Jemstone Network director in Amman.

JEDA is the Jordanian partner at the forum, chiared by Riyad Khoury and Jemstone under the management of Tudo Lomas, is the communications co-ordinator of the event, with finance by the World Bank.

According to Khoury, as at previous MDF meetings, the aim of MDF3 is to inform business and government about the trends, challenges and opportunities in the MENA region, especially as they relate to liberalization, regional integration and private sector participation.

President of the World Bank James Wolfensohn, describes the twin aims of the MDF process as "making sure that calls for reform are heard and that they produce a better life for everyone in the region."

Underlining the big shift in the bank's policy, Wolfensohn says "we now realize that we cannot make progress without a four-way partnership; the United Nations, the private sector, civil society and national governments."

Riyad Khoury

Many of the latest ideas on balanced development, concerned with health, education and freedom of expression, as well economic progress, are being tested in the Mediterranean region by the MDF partners, whose work will be reported during MDF3.

Khoury said there will also be workshops on financing development, increasing competitiveness, reforming state institutions including laws and civil service and unleashing civil society as the third force for development.

Partners include public and private institutions from Kuwait, Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine National Authority and Syria.

Attendance, said Khoury, at the three day forum, is by invitation but the local partners are keen to ensure that the best projects, research and success stories are presented at MDF3. In total, he said, there will be over 600 leading figures from business, government, legislative bodies, academia, NGOs and the media.

Lomas, for his part, noted that leading designers from the MDF partner countries are being asked to create a new MDF logo, and voiced optimism that the winner would be a Jordanian designer.

by AN ARAB DAILY REPORTER

JORDAN HAS LOW T.B. RATES

A STATEMENT BY the Minister of Health, Ishaq Maraqa issued Tuesday on the occasion of World TB Day, said the government has exerted, since the 1950s, outstanding efforts to conquer the diseasc.

In his statement, Maraqa said the Ministry has adopted a short-term strategy aiming at further decreasing the rate of TB to go down to one case per one hundred thousand persons.

"This is to be achieved through treatment of the already discovered cases," The Minister said.

Director of East Mediterranean Division of World Health Organization (WHO) Hussein Jaza'iri, said that the situation of East Mediterranean countries with regard to TB is extremely critical.

He added that the estimated number of TB cases in this region during the year 1998 is six hundred thousand cases. The fatal disease also caused the death of 150,000 persons.

However, Jordan, Bahrain, Oman, Cyprus, Qatar and Morocco were able to score high in TB treatment in 1998, according to Jaza'iri.

Jaza'iri added that TB kills between two million to three million persons in other parts of the world, exceeding death tolls caused by any other contagious disease — THE ARAB DAILY.

RAMZI E. KHOURY
Editor-In-Chief

Beneath the ashes

MARSHAL TITO MUST be turning in his grave today. Had he known that his country would be paying the price of a humanitarian gesture he made in 1945 with blood and the possibility of losing part of his homeland, he may have chosen to be inhumane.

Running away from the wrath of dictator Enver Hoxha, most Yugoslavians of Albanian origins living in Kosovo today were taken in and given full civil rights, including a citizenship they badly wanted. 54 years from Tito's decision to do what he thought was right, the immigrants of that era have become the pawns of today's scheme to create autonomy on Yugoslavian lands which can only lead to separation in the future.

Interestingly, Tito lived until 1980 trying to keep the Russians' hands off his decision making, today it is Russia that is crying foul as the West puts its hands on Yugoslavia and tries to rip it apart.

Yugoslavia is not the only Balkan state facing a dilemma. Most have minorities that could be encouraged to follow in the footsteps of those who want back to their original homeland but do not wish to travel. Instead, they demand that the ground beneath their feet shift loyalty and if not, NATO is there to shake the earth into submission.

Not many today know that Tito was not a Serb, but a Croat. His loyalty to the soil of his homeland, all of it, made him a Serb in the eyes of most. Today, beneath the rubble in Yugoslavia and beneath the soot and ashes, Tito's soil is still loyal to its homeland, thus it must be Serb.

P.S. Yugoslavia is poor; it is not a nuclear power.

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HOME WATCH

House endorses King Abdullah Hospital law

THE LOWER HOUSE of Parliament endorsed two draft laws that were presented and discussed during the House's session on Wednesday.

The draft law for the 1999 King Abdullah University Hospital is expected by the Government to become one of the largest public specialized health centers in the Kingdom.

The draft law was presented to the Parliament in order to put the hospital within a legal framework through which it can effectively operate.

The Science and Technology University campus has been chosen as the site for the project.

The hospital would function as a national, non-profitable institution that enjoys managerial and financial independence. Advanced medical services will be presented at the hospital for relatively low costs.

Efforts have been exerted to accredit the hospital both as an exchange center to and from local health care sectors, and as a national center for scientific training.

After several discussions, the Lower House endorsed the King Abdullah draft law, along with the amended law of the draft law of the Military Housing Fund — Petra

Police forces join UN peeckeepers in Bosnia

A NEW GROUP of Jordanian policemen headed for Bosnia on Wednesday to join the international peace keeping forces deployed there.

The group was seen off by Assistant Director General of the Public Security Department Major General Mohammad Saeed Tarazi who commended the performance of Jordanian peacekeepers in various parts of the world. He urged the group to preserve the good reputation that the Jordanian peacekeepers enjoy around the world.

" Jordan was chosen to take part in peace keeping missions due to its distinguished international reputation and the credibility and wise policies of the Hashemite leadership," Major General Tarazi said as he saw the forces off — Petra.

French delegation visit Ministry of Energy

MINISTER OF ENERGY and Mineral Resources, Suleiman Abu Oleim received Wednesday the delegation of French businessmen visiting Jordan to explore investment opportunities in different industrial aspects. The meeting dealt with bilateral relations and aspects of cooperation between the two countries, particularly in fields of energy and electricity.

French Ambassador to Jordan, Bernard Emie attended the meeting along with the Ministry of Energy Secretary General, Ahmad Basheer and experts in the National Electricity Company. — Petra

Solutions for unemployment

ACCORDING TO A study by the Department of General Statistics, Jordan has a high percentage of unemployment due to the fact that the country has a technical community.

A large segment of Jordan's population is below the age of 15, with low illiteracy rates, high percentage of educated people, and a low percentage of women's involvement in the economy.

Director General of the Department Hussein Shakhatreh called for establishing an information center to tackle the problem of unemployment and to find the proper solutions for it. He also called for necessary action to achieve economic growth through investment and attraction of foreign capital, with a view to create new job opportunities for the unemployed.

According to Shakhatreh, Jordan's work market has to be organized, foreign labor controlled through necessary laws and legislation, duty hours limited and new markets opened.

He affirmed the need to revive the idea of the Arab Common Market that would achieve economic integration among Arab countries. Meanwhile, he called for organizing the social aid funds operating in Jordan, and for initiating handicraft projects for pensioners — Petra.

A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO PROMOTE JORDAN FOR THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND

DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S enthusiastic efforts to boost the tourism sector as an industry and a substantial source of national income, a modest budget of JOD 3 million has been allocated to promote tourism in Jordan worldwide for the year 2000 and beyond.

"The budget that we have is humble compared to what Israel, Turkey, Syria and others in the area invest in tourism," said Marwan Khoury, managing director of the Jordan Tourism Board (JTB), despite what he described as the enormous wealth of touristic, religious and health sites that Jordan enjoys.

Besides the Islamic sites, we have more than 50 biblical sites in addition to what the Vatican listed in their jubilee calendar," said Khoury.

He said efforts to promote Jordan are not limited to the millennium but go beyond that.

"The year 2000 is not only a launching pad for Jordan, it is also a way to promote and introduce Jordan on a wider scale," Khoury added.

JTB is working on an intensive international marketing plan on tourism for Jordan, according to Board members, is more than ready to receive visitors for the year 2000 and beyond that year.

"The country is rich with archeology, history, nature, culture, religion, in addition to the essential infrastructure and tourist facilities and services," said Khoury.

Promoting Jordan is now taking place under one umbrella: JTB, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Royal Jordanian airlines, the Hotels Association, tour operators and buses, are all marking together for that goal.

"We have approached foreign professional agencies who are experienced in tourism to be our representatives in marketing Jordan through all the media channels, in addition to designing and publishing pamphlets about Jordan for public and trade sectors, and they are already selling the destination," added Khoury.

He pointed out that the Board already has representatives working for Jordan from the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and France. "[illegible] we will have three other offices in Dubai, Spain and Italy."

Khoury said their main task is to create worldwide awareness about Jordan, and each of these representatives will educate travel agents and tour operators by conducting in-house seminars in London or Frankfurt or in the States of America or by bringing them to Jordan to have a product familiarization trip.

JTB is not merely depending on its representatives abroad to do the job for them, rather they have their own agenda of work here.

"Each of these offices has a JTB dedicated line, whereby anyone who wants to ask about something, there is someone to answer," said Khoury.

He added that these offices provide JTB with a monthly report on what they have accomplished and what publications they have printed on Jordan.

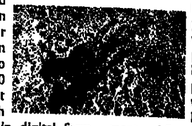
Accordingly, JTB provides them with promotional ideas if they needed any.

"We also make trips to certain destinations to provide the platform and the umbrella for the private sector whenever there is a trade fair. We rent a space, design the Jordanian stand and think of a theme for the trade fair" said Khoury.

Khoury said the Board has published a pamphlet on the Biblical sites in Jordan and in two weeks a pamphlet about Islamic sites around the Kingdom will be ready for distribution.

Entrance fees will be imposed on each of the tourist locations, the proceeds of which will go the management and maintenance of the sites.

He pointed that a foreign photographer has been assigned to make 5,000 slides about Jordan which will be ready in digital form slides to be available to anyone.



On room capacity for the expected tourists, Khoury said that by the end of this year and next year, there will be 17,000 rooms with around 35,000 beds, 270 busses and 400 tour agencies operating in full gear across the Kingdom.

According to government statistics, a total of 1.2 million tourists visited the Kingdom last year, an 11.48 percent increase from 1997. Meanwhile, the number of tourists from European countries and Israel went down, while travelers from the US and Arab Gulf increased.

According to Khoury, the tourism sector is aiming for long term tourists and visitors who would stay beyond a transit entry, and that all efforts are boiling down to this end.

The JTB was established on October 25th 1997 with the aim of promoting Jordan as a tourist center around the world. According to its bylaws, the JTB has administrative and financial independence. It was formed as a partnership between the public and private sectors in both management and financing.

As such, the JTB's board includes no less than four members from the private sector. From the public sector it includes the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Jordan Export Development Commercial Centers Organization (JEDCO) general manager and Royal Jordanian's Chief Executive Officer.

The JTB has barely started warming up for its actual role, which is to promote Jordan through various media outlets, international marketing campaigns, development of tourism potentials and sites the collection of comprehensive statistics and figures for a national database on tourism.

by SAMAR HIJJAWI

AMMAN CHOSEN CULTURAL CAPITAL

THE CITY OF Amman has been confirmed by UNESCO as the Arab Regional Cultural Capital City for the year 2001, according to a press release issued by UNESCO's regional office in Amman.

The decision, which was made during the Conference of Arab Cultural Ministers held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates late last year, has been endorsed by the Arab States grouping within UNESCO. Sharjah held the title of Arab Cultural Capital in 1998.

The press release also included the full list of Cultural Capital Cities of the Arab States Region over the next five years as: Beirut 1999, Riyadh 2000, Kuwait City 2001, Amman 2002, Rabat 2003 and Khartoum 2004.

The press release added that UNESCO, in line with its approved mandate and work program, will be providing support and assistance to the various capital cities in staging cultural events and other activities — Petra.

ROYAL JORDANIAN RECEIVES 'ARCH OF EUROPE GOLD AWARD'

THE GROUP OF Modern Pioneering European Directions which specialize in evaluating the quality of businesses and international administration has decided to grant Royal Jordanian the "Arch of Europe Award."

The prize will be presented to RJ's President and Chief Executive Officer Engineer Nader Dahabi at a ceremony in Paris next month, marking the 25th Aniniversary of the International award.

RJ receives this prize for scoring a high degree of customer satisfaction and for its distinction in aspects of staff training.

World leaders and distinguished businessmen will attend the ceremony.

The International Award will be presented for: Quality and Excellence, Business and Brandname Prestige ,Technology, Innovation and Expansion as well as Excellence in Leadership and Business Management

Nader Dahabi

Paris is the city which will welcome business leaders from all over the world to participate in an international forum at the Arch of Europe Convention Business Meeting, where business contacts and opportunities to spread ones name in the business world, will be endorsed by the Arch of Europe award.

by SAMER FARRAJ

ISRAEL ANNOUNCES MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PLAN TO TIGHTEN HOLD ON JERUSALEM

Jerusalem a sacred 'red line', Arab League warns

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AGENCIES) — The Israeli government announced on Wednesday a multi-million dollar development project for Jerusalem designed to strengthen Israel's hold on the disputed city.

The plan, announced by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rightist administration less than two months ahead of national elections, will include the construction of housing to attract new Jewish immigrants to the city, a spokesman said.

Funds will also be used to improve services for Arab residents of east Jerusalem, the sector whose Palestinians hope one day to establish the capital of an independent state of their own.

Netanyahu refuses to consider any concession to the Palestinians concerning Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem.

He has made the issue a centerpiece of his campaign for reelection in May, notably charging that his main rival for the prime ministership, Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, would cede Arab east Jerusalem to the Palestinians.

As part of his campaign, Netanyahu convened his cabinet Wednesday at Jerusalem's city hall, the first time a council of ministers has been held at the site.

"This is an historic meeting... It's a sign of the government's determination to strengthen Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem," Mayor Ehud Olmert said as he welcomed the ministers to his offices.

The meeting then approved the development plan for Jerusalem, expected to cost $68 million - $49.5 million already allocated to the city in the 1999 state budget plus an additional $18.75 million agreed on Wednesday.

The plan calls for building 120,000 new housing units for Jews in Jerusalem over the next 20 years, more than doubling its current Jewish population of 425,000.

Between 180,000 and 200,000 Palestinians live in Arab east Jerusalem, which Israel captured from Jordan in 1967 and later annexed as part of its "eternal capital."

The cabinet also announced the creation of a special commission to oversee infrastructure improvements in occupied east Jerusalem to bring that sector's dilapidated services up to the level of those in Jewish west Jerusalem, officials said.

Finally the plan will annex 8,750 acres of land from communities west of Jerusalem to the municipality in a further effort to expand the city's Jewish population.

Netanyahu's effort to highlight his tough stance on Jerusalem was undermined just as Wednesday's cabinet session was getting underway by the leak of a secret Israeli report asserting that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) had significantly increased its activities in Arab east Jerusalem.

Netanyahu claims to have halted such activities, which are prohibited under the Oslo interim peace accords between Israel and the PLO, in contrast to what he alleges was laxity on the issue by the previous Labor government.

The PNA has stepped up its activities in Jerusalem and is running a virtual parallel government in the Arab sector of the city, according to a confidential report by the Israeli secret service quoted Wednesday by the Ha'aretz newspaper.

In violation of peace accords which bar it from operating in the Israeli-controlled city, the PNA is running schools, clinics, police services and even an insurance plan for Arab residents, it said.

The report contradicted claims by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that his right-wing government has quashed PNA activity in occupied east Jerusalem, where the Palestinians hope to establish the capital of a future state.

Netanyahu alleges that the previous Labor government in Israel allowed the PNA to operate freely in Jerusalem and has made the accusation a central theme in his campaign for reelection in May polls.

The Ha'aretz leak of the report came as Netanyahu convened an extraordinary meeting of his cabinet on the Jerusalem issue at City Hall - a first for an Israeli government.

"This meeting is a sign of the commitment of this particular government to strengthening Jewish sovereignty over the whole of Jerusalem," Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said at the start of the session, which most observers viewed as part of Netanyahu's election campaign.

The secret service report, which Ha'aretz said had been submitted to Netanyahu, charged that the long-time PLO headquarters in Arab east Jerusalem, Orient House, had become the "Palestinian Authority executive" in the city.

Orient House notably has developed a health insurance plan for 15,000 residents out of the estimated Arab population in occupied east Jerusalem of 200,000, it said.

The office also finances an Islamic education system for the children of poor families as part of a broader plan to draw some 60,000 Palestinians who have moved from east Jerusalem into nearby West Bank suburbs back into the city, the report said.

The overall aim of the PNA is both to pave the way for making east Jerusalem the capital of a future Palestinian state and to fill the vacuum in social services and infrastructure left after more than 30 years of Israeli occupation.

Other institutions presented in the Israeli report as run by the PNA include Islamic religious institutions, Al Quds University, a tourism bureau and a prisoner support organization.

Israel occupied east Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967 and annexed it as part of its "eternal capital" in 1981.

The PNA has stepped up its activities in Jerusalem and is running a virtual parallel government in the Arab sector of the city, according to a confidential report by the Israeli secret service quoted Wednesday by the Ha'aretz newspaper.

Arab League warns

In Cairo, the Arab League warned Israel on Wednesday against any attempt to strengthen its hold on disputed Jerusalem, describing the holy city as a sacred "red line."

"For all monotheist religions, Jerusalem represents a red line that cannot be touched," League secretary general Esmat Abdel Meguid said in a statement issued after a defiant Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu held an unprecedented cabinet meeting at Jerusalem's city hall.

Abdel Meguid warned Netanyahu of unspecified repercussions if his rightwing government persisted in defying international resolutions and called on the world community to oppose Israeli measures to "judaise" Jerusalem.

He said the meeting, at which Netanyahu unveiled a multi-million dollar development project designed to strengthen Israel's hold on the disputed city, violated UN Security Council resolutions.

RIGHTS GROUP CALLS FOR TIGHTER GUN CONTROLS ON PALESTINIAN POLICE

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A human rights group called on Palestinian leaders to tighten up police weapons training after four men died in less than a month from gunshot wounds, two of them at the hands of Palestinian security men.

"Palestinian police are poorly trained in law enforcement and in control in the use of weapons, they are unaware of law and good policing techniques," the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW) said in a statement.

LAW cited the case of Yasser Hamad, 23, a member of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's bodyguard from Naqura near Nablus, who died on Tuesday after being shot in the leg and stomach three days before.

The circumstances of Hamad's death have not been made public.

A second man, Abdul Fattah Shannan, was shot and killed on March 6 by a relative who works for the General Intelligence Agency and a third, Said Abdul Mahdi, was also shot on March 14 by a relative who is a member of Yasser Arafat's bodyguard Force 17, LAW said.

The fourth victim, Ayman Zayed, from Beit Iksa near Ramallah, was shot and killed by a fellow villager on March 15, LAW said.

LAW called on Arafat's Palestinian National Authority to ban the widespread ownership of guns, which are widely viewed as a status symbols in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"All weapons should be withdrawn and issued... to a limited number of security personnel on only occasions when the use of force is warranted," LAW said.

"The carriage and ownership of firearms should be made illegal," LAW said.

The great majority of Palestinian security personnel, thought to number some 30,000, carry weapons.

ISRAELI JETS STRIKE LEBANESE RESISTANCE STRONGHOLD

TYRE, LEBANON (AFP) — Israeli warplanes staged a series of raids Wednesday against strongholds of the Lebanese resistance Hizbollah militia in southern Lebanon.

Two Israeli fighter-bombers fired four air-to-ground missiles at around 4:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) on Mazraat Al Hamra near the town of Nabatiyeh in southern Lebanon, police said.

The warplanes returned a few minutes later to fire two more missiles on the same region, they said.

A school bus loaded with children was hit with shrapnel during the shelling.

"The children escaped miraculously from this aggression. They started screaming and running in panic to the school buildings," a police officer told AFP.

ISRAELI SPY SENTENCED FOR PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION ON SYRIA

TEL AVIV (DPA) — An Israel court Tuesday sentenced a former Mossad intelligence co-worker to five years in prison for supplying the agency with false information on Syria.

Yehuda Gil, a former agent of the Mossad Intelligence Agency, was convicted March 11 on charges of supplying false information, harming state security and of stealing from his employers.

Gil, 63, was a Mossad operative from 1970 to 1989, and continued working for the organization on a part-time basis until his arrest in November 1997.

He was charged with presenting false information to his superiors regarding Syria's willingness for peace. He said his information came from a highly-placed source.

However, investigators found large sums of money at his home, given him to pay this source.

FEE DISPUTE WITH ISRAEL HALTS PALESTINIAN EXPORTS

GAZA (R) — Palestinian exports from the self-ruled Gaza Strip were halted for a third straight day on Wednesday over a fee dispute with Israel at the largest Gaza commercial crossing point to Israel, officials said.

Salim Abu Safiyah, director of crossings with Israel in the Palestinian National Authority, said Israeli authorities at the Karni crossing had trebled fees imposed on each Palestinian truck transporting goods from Gaza to Israel and the West Bank from 200 shekels ($50) to 600 shekels ($150).

He called the measure "completely unacceptable."

CANADA WON'T RECOGNIZE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE

OTTAWA (AFP) — Canada won't recognize a unilateral declaration of independence if the Palestinian National Authority goes ahead with its threat to issue one on May 4, Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy said Tuesday.

Axworthy said this message was to be made abundantly clear to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat when he visits Ottawa for a few hours on Wednesday.

Of the possible unilateral declaration of independence, Axworthy said: "We don't think it's appropriate. We still believe a negotiated settlement is the most effective way of going."

ARAB WATCH

US embassy in Damascus to resume full consular services

DAMASCUS (AFP) — The US embassy here announced Wednesday it will resume full consular services next month, more than three months after being attacked by demonstrators angered by US-British air strikes on Iraq. Full consular services will be available as of April 5, the embassy said in a statement, including the issuing of non-immigrant visas.

40 Islamists charged with harassing Christians in Khartoum

KHARTOUM (AP) — A group of 40 Islamists have been charged with disturbing peace and gathering illegally in front of a church in the capital, Khartoum, a newspaper reported Wednesday. Al Rai Al Aam newspaper said the group gathered in a square near the church Sunday with the aim of propagating Islam, but police intervened after receiving a complaint from the church. They were arrested and released on personal guarantees pending a trial. No date has been set. It quoted Abdul Jabbar Osman Marai, an official at the social planning ministry in charge of church affairs, as saying the incident was "aimed at creating civilian strife."

Nigeria's military ruler leaves for talks in Saudi Arabia

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria's military ruler General Abdul Salami Abu Bakar has left for Saudi Arabia on a state visit, his office said Wednesday. Abu Bakar left Abuja late Tuesday night for the visit, during which he was expected to meet King Fahd, a presidency official told AFP. The official did not give details of the talks. Abu Bakar is also expected to perform this year's Haj in Mecca before returning to Nigeria on Monday.

Former Israeli PM Yitzhak Shamir deserts Likud for hardliners

TEL AVIV (AP) — Elder Israeli statesman Yitzhak Shamir has resigned from the Likud party he helped found and joined a new opposition bloc opposed to any further territorial concessions to the Arabs. Shamir, a former prime minister, told The Associated Press on Wednesday he had joined the party headed by another Likud defector, Benny Begin. "It is closer to my views," Shamir said of Herut. Begin is running against Likud leader and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in May 17 elections.

Illegal immigrants leave Cyprus for Lebanon

NICOSIA (AFP) — A group of nearly 90 illegal immigrants left Cyprus for Lebanon on Wednesday after the Lebanese authorities agreed to take them back, police said. The 89 illegal aliens, who arrived in Cypriot waters on Thursday in a cramped fishing vessel, were being accompanied by two Cypriot police boats for the trip back to Lebanon, a police spokesman said. Their return followed negotiations between the Cypriot and Lebanese authorities which officials described as "delicate." Few of Thursday's arrivals had travel documents, however. Most of them threw their identification overboard, and the police managed to recover only two Egyptian passports. Police said most of them were believed to be Iraqis, while the others were Egyptians, Palestinians, Sierra Leoneans, Somalis and Syrians.

Acute diarrhea claims 141 lives in southern Sudan

KHARTOUM (DPA) — Acute diarrhea has claimed the lives of 141 people in the Upper Nile state of southern Sudan over the last two weeks, the government owned Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported Wednesday. The agency quoted the state minister in the federal ministry of health, Thomas Abwal, as saying that 1,796 cases had been reported in the region. The ministry had sent seven medical teams in a bid to contain the disease, Abwal said the minister would travel to the state Thursday to see the extent of the problem. It is still not clear what led to the diarrhea outbreak.

QADHAFI DENOUNCES AIRSTRIKE PLAN ON YUGOSLAVIA

CAIRO (AP) — Libyan President Moammar Qadhafi has called on world leaders to denounce NATO airstrikes on Yugoslavia, saying it would be catastrophic for world peace, the official Libyan news agency said Wednesday.

Qadhafi urged the leaders to support Yugoslavia's "legitimate right to defend its freedom and territorial integrity against a possible aggression," the Jamahiriya News Agency said.

JANA faxed a copy of the report to The Associated Press in Cairo, Egypt.

Yugoslavia and Libya have close military ties. A team of Yugoslav engineers reportedly went to Libya in January to repair Libyan ships and a submarine. Yugoslavia has also helped maintain Libyan vessels and Russian-made MiG jets since the 1980s.

JANA said Qadhafi talked on the phone with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic on Tuesday. Milosevic told Qadhafi that "there have been no attacks on civilians in Kosovo as the West trumpets," JANA said.

It said Milosevic was ready to accept "any peaceful solution but refuses to accept it by force or accept the presence of foreign power on his country's land."

JANA said Qadhafi also contacted Tuesday several world leaders in an attempt to find a peaceful settlement.

It said Qadhafi sent "urgent messages" to South African President Nelson Mandela, the head of the Non-aligned Movement, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, the head of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, the head of the Organization of African Unity and Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid.

In his letters, Qadhafi urged them to denounce "any aggression aimed at harming Yugoslavia's sovereignty and independence."

Airstrikes on Yugoslavia would be a "catastrophe of immeasurable repercussions to world peace," JANA quoted him as saying.

UN PLEDGES TO LIFT SANCTIONS ON LIBYA IF IT SURRENDERS SUSPECTS

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The UN Security Council said Tuesday it will lift sanctions against Libya when Tripoli surrenders two suspects wanted for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Handing over the pair would lead to "the immediate suspension of sanctions, with a view of lifting them as soon as circumstances permit," Security Council President Qin Huasun of China told reporters here.

On Friday, Libya agreed to deliver the two suspects "on or before April 6" to a Scottish-law court in the Netherlands to stand trial for the December 1988 attack that caused 270 deaths.

Tripoli's pledge was announced by South African President Nelson Mandela and confirmed in a letter from Libyan diplomatic chief Omar Al Mountasser to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The Council "welcomed" a letter, Qin said after a closed-door meeting of the UN body.

Under the UN deal, the sanctions are to be lifted 90 days after the two suspects are handed over.

Tuesday's press statement on the issue will be annexed to a letter from the Security Council to Annan and published as an official document, Qin said.

Meanwhile US ambassador to the UN, Peter Burleigh, called the Libyan letter a "positive development."

The two suspects should be handed over "as soon as possible and the earlier the better," he told reporters.

"We hope the Libyan authorities will co-operate fully with the Secretary General, who's trying to get in touch with them now to establish a firm date," Burleigh said.

The Arab League on Wednesday hailed the UN Security Council's announcement.

"The Arab League welcomes any step toward lifting the sanctions against Libya and putting an end to the suffering of the Libyan people," League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters.

"The League believes that the embargo against Libya has lasted too long and it must be lifted definitively after Tripoli officially announces its agreement to extradite the two Libyan nationals," he said.

QATARI PRIME MINISTER APPEARS IN COURT, DENIES TORTURE CHARGES

DOHA, QATAR (AP) — Qatar's prime minister on Wednesday denied in court that security officials tortured many of the people who are on trial for mounting a failed 1996 coup against his brother, the emir.

Prime Minister Sheik Abdullah Ben Khalifa Al Thani was the highest ranking official to testify in the trial, which began in November 1997. Foreign Minister Sheik Hamad Ben Jassim Ben Jabor Al Thani had testified in October.

Sheik Abdullah was interior minister during the coup attempt against the emir, Sheik Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani. The coup plotters were supporters of the former emir, Sheik Hamad's father, Sheik Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani.

Sheik Hamad, 46, had ousted Sheik Khalifa in a coup a few months earlier.

Seventy defendants are currently on trial and another 40 are being tried in absentia, including a former interior minister.

They are charged with treason and face the death penalty if convicted.

The defense is trying to establish that the defendants were tortured and forced to confess.

Sheik Abdullah denied that he was involved in torturing the men or that he had any knowledge of torture by his security people. But he told the court that he heard cries coming from the rooms where the defendants were being questioned in the interior ministry building.

The government has indirectly accused Sheik Khalifa, the deposed emir, of staging the coup, although he is not on trial.

Sheik Khalifa was on vacation in Europe when his son took power.

He now shuttles between homes in the United Arab Emirates, France and London and has vowed to return to his country "whatever the cost."

Sheik Khalifa himself had taken power after deposing his cousin.

Sheik Hamad, the current emir, reconciled with his father in 1997 after reaching a settlement over billions of dollars in missing state funds. Qatar had accused Sheik Khalifa and a top aide of transferring the money to private accounts overseas.

MECCA HEARS CRIES OF 'DEATH TO AMERICA' AHEAD OF IRANIAN RALLY

MECCA (AFP) — Cries of "Death to America" rang out in Islam's holiest city of Mecca as pilgrims held a protest in defiance of a Saudi ban, an Iranian official said Wednesday.

Iran, meanwhile, announced it would hold its own anti-US rally on Friday but not in Mecca itself.

Ahmad Purnejati, deputy head of Iran's pilgrimage mission, told AFP that the first protest took place on Tuesday in front of the Grand Mosque. The pilgrims' nationalities were unknown.

"There is no indication that the pilgrims in question were Iranians," the official stressed, quoting witnesses. The slogans were chanted in Arabic and not Farsi.

They chanted "Death to America," "Death to Israel," and "Muslims unite," he said, adding that Saudi security forces did not intervene but were deployed at the scene.

In contrast, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said the protest took place as pilgrims circled the Kaaba, a sacred stone inside the Grand Mosque complex.

Saudi security forces entered the mosque following the protest, it said, adding that the pilgrims also called for the "liberation of Palestine."

Iran holds an anti-US and anti-Israeli rally named "Disavowal of Pagans" each year during the Haj pilgrimage. IRNA said its rally would be held this year on Friday in the Arafat plain near Mecca, where almost two million pilgrims are to gather for the high point of the Haj.

Tens of thousands of pilgrims would take part, it said, and a message be read out from Iran's spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"It's not a demonstration, but a gathering, a meeting," explained Purnejati. "The meeting will take place inside the Iranian camps, as usual. There'll be no problem."

SETTLERS CONTINUE WEST BANK BUILDING, 17 HILLTOPS OCCUPIED

BAT AYIN, WEST BANK (AP) - Jewish settlers scrambled to build homes on another West Bank hilltop, trying to prevent the land from becoming part of a future Palestinian state.

A dozen mobile homes, a tent, and two partially-constructed houses crowded this hilltop separated from the larger Bat Ayin settlement by a half mile of steep, winding dirt road. A jackhammer cleared rocks, workers installed pipes, and a young couple painted the floor of their wooden house.

Eliezer Halfor, laying a water line Tuesday to the new settlement, said the area was "state land." Gesturing toward the valley separating the settlement from neighboring Palestinian villages, 24 kilometers south of Jerusalem, he said, "the state owns it so that the Arabs don't take it."

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat raised his concerns about accelerated settlement expansion with President Bill Clinton in their meeting Tuesday at the White House.

The Palestinians are concerned about what will happen after May 4, the date the five-year agreement with Israel on Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip expires.

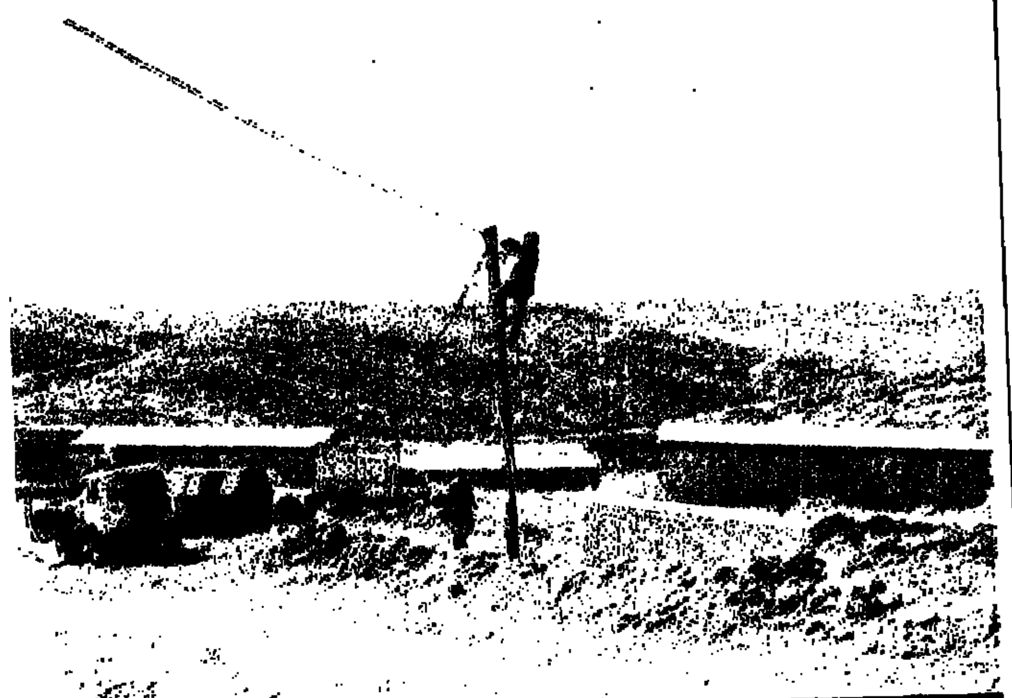
The United States has appealed to Israel to suspend settlement expansion - to no avail.

Peter Lerner, a spokesman for the Israeli military in the West Bank, said the settlement near Bat Ayin was established immediately after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed the US-brokered Wye River interim peace accord. However, it did not have permission to build new homes, he said.

Peace Now, an Israeli watchdog group, said Monday that 17 such hilltops have been taken over since Netanyahu's foreign minister called on settlers to grab land following the October signing of the Wye River accord.

Settlement leader Eliezer Roni said he planned to eventually move 500 families onto the hilltop. Contrary to Lerner, he said the state approved the project.

"It's Jewish land," Roni said. "It's not going to go to the Palestinians."



Workers install electricity for new mobile homes placed near the West Bank settlement of Bat Ayin Wednesday.

US REJECTS ISRAELI REPORT ON PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS

TEL AVIV (AP) - US officials refuted Israeli claims Wednesday that Islamic activists accused of killing American citizens were roaming free in Palestinian territory.

Larry Schwartz, spokesman for the US embassy in Tel Aviv, said officials visited Palestinian jails this month and verified the incarceration of five suspects. Five others remain at large.

Schwartz's statement came in response to a press release from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office this week charging that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was allowing seven activists to roam free, while only three others were in detention.

"We are continuing to pursue these cases with the Palestinian Authority, and we will not be satisfied until all of these people are in custody," said Schwartz.

Schwartz said that the PNA has shown willingness and the ability to arrest those involved in attacks that have resulted in the death of American citizens.

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JOURNALISM OF VERIFICATION

PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON POST AND THE ARAB DAILY ON THE SAME DAY

PARIS — The disaster that befell the European Commission last week, it was a classic corruption and favoritism scandal, might serve as a useful reminder of what it takes to make public institutions responsive and honest. It turns out that a probing and nosy press is useful to have around.

That's not such a popular view in the wake of the Clinton scandals. For reasons both good and not-so-good, members of "the media" are being questioned over how we handled the mess. Yes, the press should be held accountable, too. But before wishing away investigating reporters, consider the goings on at the European Commission.

On March 15, a group of experts appointed to look into allegations of wrongdoing by the 20-person executive that runs the European Community issued a devastating report. Favoritism, questionable contracts, no-show jobs and waste were rampant. In the management of the commission, the report said, it was hard "to find anyone who has even the slightest sense of responsibility."

Everyone's favorite target was French Socialist politician Edith Cresson. She was criticized for, among other things, a youth training program that apparently squandered millions, and for giving a $160,000 contract to a dentist friend from her hometown to write reports about AIDS. This particular dentist didn't seem to know much about AIDS. His reports were deemed worthless.

The investigators' findings were so bad that the entire 20-member commission resigned, including its president, Jacques Santer.

Now here's where the press comes in: Patronage and favoritism were nothing new in the European bureaucracy. But nothing much had ever been done about it. That changed when the feisty Paris daily, Liberation, broke the Cresson dentist story.

The press all by itself could not have changed things. But it took reporting by Liberation, and also by the Brussels daily, La Meuse/La Lanterne, to put putatively democratic institutions under normal democratic scrutiny and eventually to force action. This story is a reminder of why investigative journalism exists.

Scores of Democrats who loved that line of work during Iran-Contra and Watergate have been heard to mumble what an inconvenience it is now. And it's true that the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal was not quite like any other. It's also true, as Tom Rosenstiel and Bill Kovach argue in their important forthcoming book, "Warp Speed: America in the Age of Mixed Media," that not all aspects of the coverage of the Clinton episode were admirable.

There were, they point out, some outright failures, such as reports premised on the idea that Clinton aides wrote those famous Linda Tripp talking points, and some false reporting on what Vernon Jordan allegedly told Ken Starr's grand jury.

There is also the problem of allegations asserted as fact. Rosenstiel, director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism, and Kovach, curator of Harvard's Nieman Foundation, contrast a "journalism of assertion" with a "journalism of verification."

The former, Rosenstiel says, involves "taking anything you hear and putting it out there, whether it's rumor, an allegation or something you made up." A journalism of assertion has been made easier by the "mixed media" that Rosenstiel and Kovach describe, including the proliferation of politically oriented Web sites and chat shows on both relevision and radio.

That contrasts with their "journalism of verification," which most of us think of real journalism. Real journalists take the tips and the allegations but then find out, here's where the hard work comes in, whether they are actually true. As Rosenstiel notes, investigative reporting was needed in the Clinton scandals, even if "the public didn't want to hear about it", not only to discover what really happened but also what didn't.

The danger is this: If the simple act of throwing charges around is confused with authentic investigative reporting, a process of investigation and accountability that is absolutely essential to democracy will get discredited.

As David Brooks reports in The Weekly Standard this week, a survey in France revealed that three-quarters of the French public called investigative journalism "unethical." Brooks also cites a hilarious memo from one of Edith Cresson's aides declaring that "an excess of information can lead to disinformation ... so it is necessary to learn to conceal information. ..."

Fortunately for Europeans, some reporters did their own digging and produced what from Cresson's point of view certainly was "an excess of information." It's a good thing they did, and it's why Democrats who are now fed up with a snoopy and, yes, at times difficult press will be glad someday that the journalistic gumshoes are there.

By E.J. DIONNE JR.

TALEBAN FOES WANT TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT

KABUL (R) — A top official of the anti-Taleban alliance said on Wednesday that the Taleban's insistence on being the rulers of Afghanistan was an obstacle to UN-sponsored peace talks.

"The leadership issue, which is important for peace, needs to be resolved between us and the Taleban," Dr Abdullah (one name) of the opposition coalition told Reuters.

He said the opposition, which controls a scant 10 percent of the country, disputed the right of the Taleban to call the country the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, with its supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, as the Emir.

"The Taleban's insistence on calling itself the Emirate of Afghanistan will be an obstacle for a peaceful solution," Abdullah said in a satellite phone interview.

Omar ruled out a joint government with opposition leader Ahmad Shah Masood, the Taleban's Shariat radio reported.

"If we form a joint government with Masood, other opposition groups overseas will demand a share in the government too, and inclusion of every fugitive commander in the government means its destruction," Omar said.

He was speaking after talks with the UN special envoy for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, in the Taleban's southern bastion of Kandahar. Brahimi visited Masood at his northern Taloquan base on Tuesday as part of a shuttle between the two sides to promote UN peace moves.

He is trying to arrange the venue and time for the next phase of peace talks, which are expected to take place inside Afghanistan next month.

The Taleban and its enemies reached an outline agreement last month to share power and to launch a peace process by freeing 20 prisoners each as a prelude to discussing a ceasefire.

The two sides have since engaged in intermittent fighting, which they accuse each other of starting, but have said they will continue to pursue the peace initiative.

Abdullah said the opposition sought a transitional government to pave the way for the broad-based administration the UN wants to see to end the factional, ethnic and political bloodshed that has dragged on for 20 years.

"We proposed to the Taleban various ways of solving the leadership matter and told the UN envoy too. Let us have a transitional government as a means for solution and give people the right to choose their destiny," Abdullah said.

The Taleban says its willingness to take part in the peace talks does not mean the formation of a coalition government with Masood and that its government will remain intact.

Abdullah said the opposition stance was that it was willing to talk, but would not surrender to the Taleban.

"Our talks with the Taleban and the power sharing should not be interpreted that we would join or surrender to the Taleban," Abdullah said.

Only Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia recognize the Taleban as the government of Afghanistan. The UN seat is still occupied by the administration of Burhanuddin Rabbani whom the Taleban ousted from power in 1996.

EU LEADERS AGREE ON PRODI TO TACKLE EUROPEAN COMMISSION CRISIS

BERLIN (AFP) — European Union leaders Wednesday named former Italian premier Romano Prodi to head the disgraced EU Commission and called on Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to back down at the last moment over Kosovo.

On the first day of a two-day special summit called to hammer out agreement on reforming EU finances, the heads of state and government appeared determined to prove that Europe was capable of acting decisively in a situation affecting the European decision-making process.

Announcing the nomination, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said the 59-year-old Prodi had a "reform-oriented" record that made him ideally qualified for the job in Brussels.

Prodi, a mild-mannered former economics professor, earned the respect of Europe's leaders for the way he whipped the Italian economy into shape to clinch the country's place among the founder members of the single European currency.

Prodi reacted to news of his appointment with delight. "It will be a great challenge. But there is also enormous satisfaction for my country that there was unanimity."

Italian Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema said the decision to name Prodi "underlines Italy's credibility in Europe."

Prodi, D'Alema's predecessor, will take over from Jacques Santer within the next month, subject to a vote of approval from the European parliament.

Santer and the 19 other commissioners resigned last week after the publication of damning criticism of their handling of fraud and corruption.

Wednesday's decision means there will be enough time for Prodi to be approved by the parliament before it breaks up in May for June elections.

Schroeder, who hosted the summit, said he expected a vote on Prodi's appointment in the week of April 12-16.

What will happen to the other 19 EU commissioners, who are currently continuing to do their jobs in a caretaker role, will be decided at a special informal meeting of EU leaders in early April, Schroeder said.

Jose-Maria Gil-Robles, the speaker of the European Parliament, said on the sidelines of the summit that any commissioner criticized in an independent report on corruption should be forced to quit Brussels alongside Santer.

Euro-MPs are particularly determined that former French prime minister Edith Cresson, who was severely criticized in an independent report on mismanagement, should not be allowed to carry on.

EU leaders also implored Milosevic to back down over Kosovo, but said they were resolved to use NATO's military might against him if he failed to do so.

A simple telephone call from Milosevic could halt NATO air strikes on his country, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer told a news conference.

He said that Milosevic "at any instant, any second could make a meaningful offer" which would avert an attack ordered by NATO chief Javier Solana in a bid to force the Yugoslav leader to accept an international peace plan for the province of Kosovo.

The EU leaders said that their policies were not directed against the Serbian population, but "against the irresponsible Yugoslav leadership under President Milosevic."

"It is directed against security forces cynically and brutally fighting a part of their own population. We want to put an end to these outrages," they added.

MEET MR PRODI

Former Italian prime minister and front runner for the job of European Commission President

Prodi is well known in Italy as a leading economist and for his eating, cycling and Roman Catholic beliefs

1939, August
Born in Scandiano, Reggio Emilia

1961
Graduates from Milan's Catholic University with a degree in economics, postgraduate studies at London School of Economics

1963 - 71
Assistant professor of economics at Bologna University

1971
Professor of industrial economy and policy

1974
Year at Harvard as a visiting professor

1974 - 78
Returns to Italy, becomes chairman of Mulino publishing house

1978 - 79
Five months in politics as Industry Minister in a Christian Democrat-led government

1981
Co-founder of Nomisma economic research institute, Bologna

1982 - 89
Chairman of state holding company IRI

1990 - 93
Advisory director at Unilever

1993 - 94
Chairman of IRI

1996, April
Re-enters politics as deputy with the centre-left Olive Branch coalition

1996, May
Elected Prime Minister, propels Italy into Europe's single currency and brings stability to a fractured political landscape

1998, October
Resigns after his coalition loses a vote of confidence

Since 1998
Still an MP and head of a centre-left movement, Prodi is a practicing Roman Catholic, married with two sons

BRITISH AIRWAYS LAUNCHES DAILY FLIGHTS

BRITISH AIRWAYS CELEBRATED, yesterday, the launch of its daily flight starting April 1st from Amman to London at a function attended by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji.

"The daily service will combine increased flexibility as well as the British Airways award winning business class Club World. All flights will give customers the opportunity to connect to almost anywhere in the world every day on the same day on the British Airways network," said Daniel Ennor, manager of British Airways in Amman.

Club World passengers are able to enjoy flexible tickets, cradle seats, personal in flight entertainment and the 'eat what you can' option where passengers snack at will during their flight.

The launch coincides with the British Airway's second anniversary celebrating "the partnership with British Mediterranean Airways who operate the company's flights to Amman, Beirut, Damascus, Alexandria as well as several countries in Central Asia," said Ennor.

David Roushman, Sales and Marketing Manager, Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, explained that over the last few years, we [British Airways] have invested millions of pounds in our product and although product investment will never cease in this very competitive industry, investment in our people is paramount.

To supplement our global partnerships, we continue to develop relationships with quality franchise carriers. In the Middle East, our relations with British Mediterranean continue to go from strength to strength," continued Roushman.

More than 150 million pounds is being spent by British Airways on its new World Traveler service with a range of industry 'firsts' on the ground and in the air. Features include new scientifically designed seats with adjustable headrests, footrests and more knee room. Personal video screens for every passenger, with at least 12 channels, including a dedicated children and family channel. New menus and catering equipment, in addition to a help yourself snack bar.

British Airways, commended for its punctuality in all its flights, showed great hospitality to its customers present that evening, demonstrating quality service and an enviable team coordination.

Biltaji thanked British Airways for its services, wished them success and affirmed their high standards.

"Had it not been for air transportation, tourism would have been a disaster. We welcome all guests coming in to Jordan, who we hope will be increasing due to the new daily flights. We are ready to meet them in our prospering number of hotels and hope to offer them our hospitality."

By Rana Asfour

LIBERIAN SOLDIERS STORM VILLAGE, LOOT AND RAPE

MONROVIA (AFP) — A group of armed Liberian soldiers who stormed a village in the western part of the country looted homes and raped several women, independent radio reports said here Wednesday

The incident occurred last week in Dambala, 110 kilometers west of Monrovia, in a town bordering neighboring Sierra Leone.

The rampaging soldiers, who apparently were in search of a missing man, also beat and detained scores of elders, according to Lahai Kamara, the village chief. The missing man was later found, reports said.

Residents were forced to flee after several hours of sporadic shooting in the village. The soldiers were believed to have fired in the air, as no casualties were reported.

Defense Minister Daniel Chea said the commander of the soldiers was brought to Monrovia for interrogation, and that the unit's command structure in Dambala had been reshuffled.

Chea said the situation in Dambala was under control. In a related development, one police officer and a civilian were injured in two separate shooting incidents between police and soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) in Monrovia, press reports said Wednesday.

One incident took place in Monrovia before dawn on Sunday at a slaughterhouse being guarded by AFL soldiers. Owners of the abattoir accused members of the police Special Operation Division (SOD) of looting 60 cattle and $700 US in the shootout, which injured a police officer.

Police have denied the charges. In the second incident, which also occurred on Sunday morning, a civilian was injured when police attempted to arrest a soldier caught smoking marijuana in a Monrovia ghetto, witnesses said.

PARAGUAY GRAPPLES WITH INCREASING POLITICAL TURMOIL

ASUNCION (AP) — Lawmakers stung by the assassination of Paraguay's vice president voted Wednesday to begin impeachment proceedings against President Raul Cubas.

In a packed session of Paraguay's lower house, opponents of Cubas blamed the president for the death of Vice President Luis Argana, who was killed Tuesday as he rode to work.

Scuffling broke out in the early morning session, which came hours before Argana was to be buried.

Argana was the leader of an effort within the ruling Colorado Party to oust Cubas. An impeachment vote had been scheduled for early April.

The lower house approved the measure Wednesday by a vote of 59 to 24. The issue now rests with Paraguay's Senate. No timetable was set for that vote.

The government also announced the arrest of former Gen. Lino Oviedo. Shortly after taking office in August, Cubas ordered Oviedo's release from jail, a decision that caused considerable unrest here.

Oviedo's arrest, the government said, stemmed from his conviction last year on charges of insubordination, and was not related to Argana's killing.

Oviedo appeared before a military tribunal Wednesday afternoon, but denied he was under arrest or that his arrest was being sought.

Many opposition lawmakers and Argana supporters blame both Cubas and Oviedo for the attack on the vice president.

WORLD WATCH

At least 32 killed in Kenyan train accident

NAIROBI — At least 32 people were killed and 26 were injured when a passenger train derailed between Nairobi and Mombasa early Wednesday, the Kenyan Committee for the Prevention of Catastrophes said.

The death toll is still provisional, the group said, adding that the injured were being flown to Nairobi.

Twenty-three of the injured are in critical condition, an official of the African Medical and Research Foundation said.

A reporter for the national radio KBC who was aboard the train said many passengers were pinned under the cars.

He said the accident happened while the train was travelling very fast down a steep slope — Agence France Presse

Prayer leader at Shiite mosque killed in Pakistani village

MULTAN — Two unidentified gunmen raided a Shiite mosque in a Pakistani village Wednesday and shot dead the prayer leader, police and relatives said.

The assailants, who entered the mosque at the time of dawn prayers in the village of Ahmadani in Dera Ghazi Khan district of Punjab province, fled on a motorcycle after killing 43-year-old Barkat Ali, they said. Ali was alone in the mosque, awaiting worshippers to arrive.

Police said an investigation was under way and the motive of the attack was not known. But relatives said Ali had no known enemies and blamed the murder on unspecified Sunni Muslim extremists.

The deceased, who also taught children at the mosque, was affiliated to Shia political party Tehrik-i-Jafraia Pakistan (TJP) — Agence France Presse.

Jiang defends Beijing's rights record

MILAN — Chinese President Jiang Zemin defended Beijing's human rights record Wednesday, insisting the international community must take into account his country's "reality" on the issue.

In his first public comments on the issue since arriving in Italy for a 10-day European trip, Jiang insisted that Beijing adheres to international human rights principles.

"On the question of human rights and democratic freedom, China respects the universal principles recognized by the international community on human rights," he said in an address at Milan City Hall.

"But I believe that the reality in which we live should be taken into account," he added in this northern Italian city, where Jiang arrived Tuesday night after two days in Rome clouded by human rights protests — Agence France Presse.

Explosion damages restaurant in Istanbul

ISTANBUL — An explosion damaged a McDonald's in Istanbul on Wednesday, but caused no injuries, the Anatolia news agency reported.

The blast occurred at 1 p.m. (1100 GMT) in the toilet of the fast food restaurant. The cause was unclear. Earlier this month, a bomb was found in a Burger King in Istanbul before it detonated.

Turkey has witnessed a sharp increase in violence since the capture of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan. Istanbul has borne the brunt, with at least 14 people killed this month in attacks attributed to Kurdish rebels.

Ocalan's rebels, who have been fighting for autonomy in Turkey's southeast for nearly 15 years, vowed to step up attacks after his Feb. 15 capture — Associated Press.

Cypriot National Guardsman killed in explosion

NICOSIA — A soldier in the Cypriot National Guard was killed in an explosion Wednesday during a mine-sweeping operation, a defense ministry spokesman said.

The blast, described as an accident, occurred in the village of Potamia, along the UN-controlled buffer zone, some 20 kilometers southeast of the capital Nicosia, the spokesman said.

There are a number of minefields in Cyprus, which has been divided since a 1974 Turkish invasion which followed a Greek-Cypriot coup aimed at uniting the island with Greece.

UN peacekeepers patrol the buffer zone dividing the two sides — Agence France Presse.

FOUR DIE, SEVERAL HURT AFTER TRUCK FIRE IN MONT BLANC TUNNEL

CHAMONIX (AFP) — Four people died Wednesday and several others were injured when a truck caught fire in the Mont Blanc tunnel under the Alps between France and Italy, officials said.

The prefect for Haute-Savoie, Pierre Breuil, said that in addition to one fireman, three other people had died after the Belgium-registered truck burst into flames, possibly after being rammed from the rear by another vehicle.

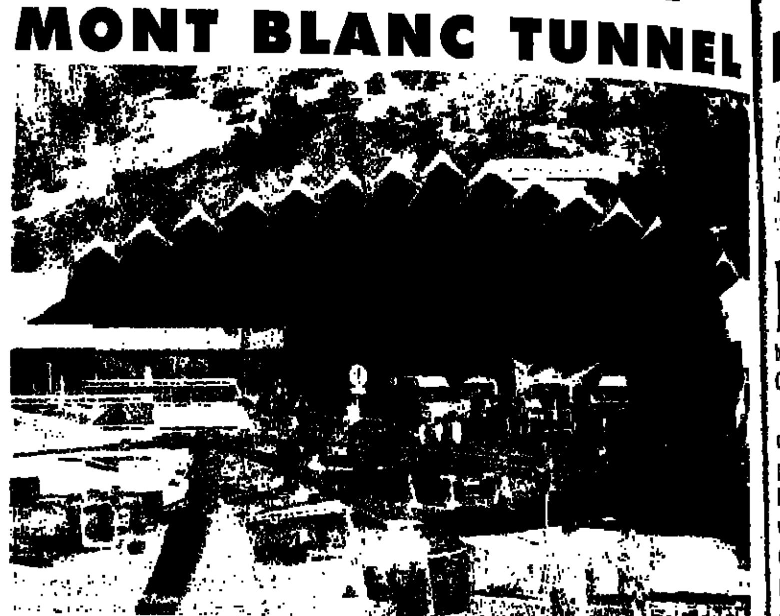
They were found in the tunnel in a zone around the truck, which was carrying flour and margarine.

Ten French firemen who were sent in to extinguish the blaze were quickly trapped in thick fumes but were evacuated by late afternoon, along with six tunnel employees and six firemen on the Italian side.

It was impossible to see through the smoke, one rescue-worker said.

Firefighters from the French side used respirators to reach those stranded.

As dusk fell and smoke continued to spew from the tunnel, several trucks were reported blocked inside but their drivers were evacuated.



Rescue vehicles are stationed at the entrance of the Mont Blanc tunnel in Chamonix Wednesday.

N. KOREA SLAMS US OVER EVACUATION EXERCISE

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea on Wednesday lambasted the United States for carrying out an evacuation exercise for its citizens in South Korea, saying the drill was a sign of imminent war.

Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said the exercise, due to begin here Friday, demonstrated that the United States and its ally, South Korea, were not interested in dialogue and peace.

"The US and South Korean war hawks are these days busy with frequent war exercises under different names aimed at making an outbreak of war against the North a fait accompli, bringing war exercises closer to a real war and rounding off its preparations at the final stage," it said.

"These war maneuvers will only result in precipitating their final ruin," it added. US forces stationed here are carrying out an evacuation drill under which about 120 US citizens and family of military personnel will be taken to Japan to simulate a state of emergency.

US military sources said the drill was "routine" and not out of the ordinary. Some 37,000 US troops are stationed in the South to ward off any possible attack from the North.

GERMAN, SWISS KIDNAPPED IN COLOMBIA

BOGOTA (DPA) — Two engineers, one Swiss and one German, were kidnapped in northwestern Colombia, police reported Wednesday in Bogota.

Authorities said there has been no trace of either engineer since the two of them disappeared Tuesday, and that no ransom money has been demanded. Local media said that "Front 47," a splinter group of the Marxist Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), was responsible for the kidnappings.

PINOCHET, CHILE'S DESPOT OR SAVIOR?

LONDON (R) — Five months of detention in London have done little to reconcile divergent views of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet as either a ruthless despot or the man who rescued Chile from communism.

Spain had requested his arrest on charges linked to state repression and on Wednesday Britain's highest court allowed extradition proceedings to go ahead by saying the 83-year-old was not immune from prosecution as a former head of state.

But at the same time the panel of Law Lords defused the bulk of the charges by saying he could not be extradited for alleged human rights abuses before 1988, the year Britain incorporated the United Nations convention on torture into its law.

Spain has charged Pinochet with torture, kidnapping and conspiracy to murder thousands of people during his rule from 1973 to 1990, but the charges allowed to stand by the judges include only one act of torture after 1988.

In December, in his only appearance in a British court, Pinochet said he was innocent and did not recognize the jurisdiction of any court outside Chile.

A few weeks later he said he was resigned to dying in Britain during the interminable legal arguments, and these could indeed drag on for years.

Hated by the left, adored by the right, Pinochet stepped down as commander-in-chief of the Chilean army last March and took up a lifetime unelected seat in Chile's Senate, a right he wrote into the constitution in 1980.

Friends and foes alike use the nickname "The Gentleman" for the white-haired grandfather who was once the archetypal South American military leader.

His admirers say he saved Chile from communism, but his critics condemn the coup in which he ousted the elected government of Socialist president Salvador Allende in 1973 and the ensuing crackdown on dissent.

Pinochet ran Chile in authoritarian style for 17 years at the head of a military junta, reinstating democracy only when he won less than 50 percent in a 1988 plebiscite on his rule.

During the transition, Pinochet bargained with the incoming politicians to ensure he would not have to fear reprisals.

As a senator Pinochet enjoys privileges that include immunity from prosecution in Chilean courts and diplomatic status. He traveled to Britain on his diplomatic passport.

Born in Valparaiso, 140 km from Santiago, on November 25, 1915, Pinochet is a devout Roman Catholic.

He attributes his faith to a childhood accident in which he was knocked down by a car and nearly had to have his left leg amputated. The leg was saved after his mother Avelina Ugarte prayed for a miracle and heeded the advice of a passing German doctor who said the limb needed exposure to the sun.

Pinochet joined military school at the age of 17. He was named commander-in-chief of the army on August 23, 1973, by Allende, the man he deposed three weeks later.

Allende died from bullet wounds received under mysterious circumstances in the coup. He was inside the presidential palace as it was bombed by the air force, refusing to step down and accept an offer of safe passage out of Chile.

Pinochet banned political parties and shut Congress. He implemented a curfew for more than a decade and persecuted leftists. Around 3,000 people died or vanished during his rule, and tens of thousands of others fled the country.

Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa described Pinochet's regime as the only successful dictatorship in Latin America, but said its economic achievements were stained with blood.

COURT UPHOLDS PINOCHET ARREST, BUT THROWS OUT BULK OF CHARGES

LONDON (AP) — Britain's highest court on Wednesday upheld Gen. Augusto Pinochet's arrest on charges of gross human rights violations, dashing the former Chilean dictator's hopes of immediately returning home.

But the House of Lords tribunal also threw out 27 of the 30 charges in a Spanish warrant seeking the 83-year-old general's extradition for alleged human rights abuses during his 1973-1990 regime.

In a 6-1 decision, the judges said Pinochet cannot be prosecuted for any acts of torture committed before 1988, when Britain signed an international law banning the practice.

The ruling left Pinochet facing only three counts alleging numerous cases of conspiracy to torture and one each of torture and murder conspiracy.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OFFERS 'MARKET-DRIVEN' ASSISTANCE

Private local businesses will be given financial assistance by a new investment project for joint ventures between Jordan and the European Community Investment Partners (ECIP).

ECIP is market-driven in contrast to most cooperation instruments. It gives its support to investment projects in which EC and local companies cooperate either in joint ventures or through licensing agreements or in privatization or private infrastructure projects. Such support is provided through a set of financing facilities, which cover the various phases of an investment project and include; grant money for identification of projects, interest free advances for preparation of projects, equity or equity loans for investment and interest free loans or grants for human resources development.

"Jobs, export opportunities and transfer of technology will be created as a result of this new project," said Nabeel Wahbeh, Director of Jordan Branches, Jordan National Bank, during a seminar which was held on Tuesday in the Radisson SAS Hotel in Amman.

In his presentation, Tom Roe, head of sector for ECIP at the European Commission (EC) in Brussels said "our money is your money. ECIP will provide financial assistance to joint ventures, privatization and private infrastructure projects through five facilities via financial institutions to local beneficiaries."

The first facility is concerned with the identification of potential joint venture projects and partners with a maximum grant of 100,000 euros, to be accessed by Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Associations can apply directly or through financial institutions.

Facility two provides feasibility studies or pilot projects with a maximum of 250,000 euros as interest-free advance, within which 10,000 euros are for pre-feasibility travel costs.

Facility three provides joint venture capital requirements with a maximum amount available of 1 million euros as equity holding or equity loan.

The fourth facility is to be for training technical or management with a maximum amount available of 250,000 euros as an interest-free loan. This will be granted for large companies.

Tom Roe, Head of Sector, ECIP, Brussel

Facilities two, three and four will be accessed through local development or commercial banks and multilateral organizations.

The fifth facility is a preparation for privatization or a Build Operate Transfer (BOT) or a Build Operate Own (BOO) scheme in private infrastructure, utilities or environmental services with a maximum grant of 200,000 euros. It is conditioned to requests by government authorities, who should work with European operators who can bid competitively for the project.

Included in this facility are evaluation, technical, economic and other preparatory studies including tender documentation. All results are to be made public.

The ECIP project includes basic principles: the initiative should come from the private sector; it covers all activities as industry, services and agriculture in eligible countries; and the contact should be through the financial institutions.

"ECIP is a seeking an investment opportunity which needs a continuous cooperation. I call it easy, creative, intelligent and productive," said Mohammad Hallaiqah, Secretary General of Ministry of Industry and Trade.

So far, only the Jordan National Bank has been nominated as one of the local financial institutions, which should be free to choose their clients. "That is why we should have two local banks in one country," said Roe.

Financial institutions provide information to potential applicants for ECIP funding; they assist the applicants in drawing up their applications and transmit the application to the EC. If the application is accepted by the EC, the financial institution is the usual channel through which ECIP funding is passed to the final beneficiary.

"The number of the local companies to be involved in the project is too early to say, it is a new project and people are only starting to understand it now," Wahbeh told The Arab Daily.

Around one hundred participants from the public and private sectors attended the ECIP seminar.

"The challenges in the economic front are clear, they will be critical in the next two to three years. The ECIP is part of the weapon that the EU assists with the transition and solid practice," said Ambassador James Moran, head of the delegation of the European Commission, who attended the presentation.

The co-organizer of the project, the Euro-Jordanian Business Service Team (BST), has been operating in Jordan for one year now. The BST is funded by MEDA, the financial instrument of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership launched in 1995.

by DANA ABU SHAM

LOUISIANA CRAWFISH BACK ON THE MENU

STARKVILLE (AP) — Falling prices have put crawfish back on restaurant menus and in supermarkets in large numbers as the season of the freshwater crustacean gets in full swing.

The season extends from November through May, but peaks in April. Prices currently in South Mississippi range from about $1.19 to $1.49 a pound live, and $2.09 to $2.19 a pound boiled. Prices are expected to drop at least 20 cents in the next few days as more crawfish flood the markets.

Ben Posadas, marine economist at the Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi, said Mississippi has no commercial crawfish producers, but some people catch for themselves and sell privately.

"Most of the nation's crawfish production occurs in Louisiana," Posadas said. "But since 1992, a lot of crawfish has been imported into the United States, mainly from China."

In 1997, Louisiana produced most of the nation's 70 million pounds of crawfish valued at nearly $40 million. Most were cultured, but nearly 23 million pounds were caught live in the wild. Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin between Baton Rouge and Lafayette produces most of the wild crawfish.

Tom Rexroad, owner of Claw Daddy's Crawfish in Gulfport, Miss., said he hopes to sell between 750,000 and 800,000 pounds of crawfish this year. Rexroad has been buying all his crawfish from Louisiana for the last 12 years.

"I do think this will be one of our better years," Rexroad said. "So far, we are getting more crawfish than we did last year."

Rexroad's prices are down 10 cents from last week. He expects his prices to drop an additional 30 cents by the last full week of March as more crawfish are caught in Louisiana.

"When there's plenty of crawfish, the price has to go down," Rexroad said. "Supply and demand will always make a difference in what we're going to sell crawfish for and what we can buy them for."

The river crawfish in the Achafalaya Basin have yet to be caught in large numbers, and when that happens, Rexroad said he expects prices to drop significantly. Not only are these crawfish abundant, they command higher prices.

"Basin crawfish are bigger and some people say they taste better," Rexroad said. "They're a consistent size, unlike pond crawfish where you get some large ones, but there is a lot of size difference."

BUSINESS [redacted] SCENE

US Businessman arrives to help USAID project

Jerome (Jerry) Bartholomay, a Volunteer Executive, is in Jordan for a 4-week visit to provide the Jordan American Business Association with assistance in developing its strategic business plan.

Mr. Bartholomay has been given this mission by Jordan-United States Business Partnership (JUSBP) according to the agreement signed between USAID, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade. This agreement will provide technical assistance, consultative services, and training to Jordanian small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), in order to enhance their productivity, competitiveness, employment, and profitability. Mr. Bartholomay has extensive experience in developing, organizing, and working with similar organizations in various countries.

Mr. Bartholomay's credentials include working in the following projects: the Botswana Management Assistance Program in 1993; the Malawi Chamber of Commerce on fund raising and staff training in 1994; the NGO development conference in Uzbekistan in 1994; the completion of four business projects in Zimbabwe in 1995 and 1996; two business projects in Ukraine in 1997; and assistance to the Slovakian Association of Management and Training in 1998.

In the United States he was worked with the Austin, Texas, Chamber of Commerce on both membership campaigns and feasibility studies. Twenty five years before that he was Vice President of Junior Achievement in Wisconsin, a non-profit program for training young people in business. In addition, he held the post of a consultant with John B. Cumming Co., in Texas; with Douglas M. Lawson Associates in New York; and with the Community Service Bureau in Texas — The Arab Daily.

IMF predicts satisfactory Israeli economic growth

WASHINGTON — The IMF congratulated Israel on its tough monetary policy Tuesday and predicted that the country's central bank would soon be able to cut interest rates.

In its annual report on the Israeli economy, the IMF predicted that gross domestic product would grow by 2.25 percent in 1999 compared to two percent in 1998.

Inflation would hit the government target of four percent, (down from 8.6 percent in 1998) while the balance of trade deficit would fall to two percent of GDP, down from 2.4 percent in 1998, the report said.

In October and November last year, the Israeli central bank hiked interest rates as the shekel, which had already plunged in value in the wake of the Russian financial crisis, came under renewed pressure.

The bank was able to cut rates to 13 percent in March and inflation had eased considerably since then, the International Monetary Fund authors said.

Israeli monetary policy should be able to strike a balance between maintaining low inflation and sustaining economic activity, the authors said.

They also welcomed the recent cut in interest rates and predicted that there would be opportunities to cut them even further in the future — Agence France Presse.

Deadly fruit disease breaks out in Florida

LABELLE — The state of Florida began burning more than 250 acres in a commercial grove this week to help stifle an outbreak of citrus canker.

The deadly plant disease was found Feb. 5 in red grapefruit trees at Siboney Grove in eastern Hendry County, the state's largest citrus-growing county, said Jack Neitzke, director of the Immokalee Citrus Canker Project.

The grove will lose about half its 600 acres to the fires, and it will not be paid for the burned trees or lost fruit, Neitzke said. However, the grove can harvest the varieties of fruit which were not affected by the outbreak, he said.

The burning should be completed in about six weeks.

Citrus canker can kill as many as 250 kinds of fruit trees but is not harmful to humans. The bacterium causes trees to weaken, lose leaves and drop fruit.

Vice President Al Gore announced earlier this month that Florida will receive $20.7 million to help fight canker, which could cause the state's citrus industry to lose $200 million in sales from the current outbreak — Associated Press.

AMMAN STOCKS

ACCESS 4646868

Wednesday,24- 03- 99

Company	Closing	Change
BANKS		
ARAB Bk	220.000	-1.00
NT'L Bk	1.420	0.00
MIDDEL EAST Bk	0.980	0.01
INDUSTRIAL DEV. Bk	1.370	-0.02
THE HOUSING Bk	2.840	0.04
JO. KUWAIT Bk	1.560	-0.01
JO. GULF Bk	0.850	0.00
JO. ISLAMIC Bk	1.680	0.00
JO. INVES.&FIN. Bk	1.330	0.03
BEIT ELMAL	0.600	0.01
PHILADELPHIA Bk	0.830	0.00
285.990	point =	-0.20%
INSURANCE		
JO. INS	2.850	0.00
JO. FRENCH INS	2.680	-0.02
125.210	point =	-0.10%
SERVICES		
ELECTRIC POWER	1.660	-0.02
PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	0.840	0.02
JO. INT'L TRADING CENT	0.240	0.01
AL-RAI	7.100	0.03
COMMODORE	1.100	-0.01
UNIFIED LAND TRANS	1.030	0.00
111.670	point =	-0.15%
INDUSTRY		
CEMENT	3.630	0.01
PHOSPHATE	2.400	0.00
ARAB POTASH	4.290	0.09
PETROLEUM REFINERY	11.000	-0.03
THE IND. COMM.& AGRICU	1.000	0.00
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL	3.090	-0.01
CERAMIC IND	1.250	-0.01
TOBACCO & CIGARET	1.550	-0.01
NT'L STEEL	0.880	0.03
DAR AL DAWA	6.100	-0.04
JO. STEEL	1.010	0.01
ARAB ALUMINIUM	1.580	0.04
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.390	0.00
PAPER CONVERTING	0.710	-0.04
PETRO - CHEMICAL	0.230	0.00
CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OI	1.130	0.03
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL	0.970	0.02
NT'L CABLE	0.810	-0.01
SULPHO - CHEMICALS	0.400	-0.01
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM	1.240	-0.01
KAWTHER	0.630	0.03
EL- ZAY	1.240	-0.02
UNIVERSAL MODERN IND	0.680	0.00
IND. RESOURCES	0.450	0.01
NEW CAPLES	0.570	-0.01
NT'L ALUMINIUM	0.610	0.01
97.280	point =	+0.77%
PARALLEL		
EXPORT Bk 75%	0.940	-0.01
JO. INT'L. INS	0.660	-0.03
UNION INVES. CORP	0.800	0.00
ARAB FINANCIAL INVES	0.600	-0.01
AL - EKBAL	0.900	0.01
AL - SHARQ	1.080	0.00
MEDICAL APPLIANCES	0.450	0.00
AL DAWLIAH	0.740	0.02
ARAB INVESTORES	1.130	0.02
ARAB INT'L. TRADE	0.190	0.01
OPTICAL & AUDIAL	0.350	0.00
NAMICO	0.160	0.01
MIDDLE EAST PHAR	0.620	0.02
UNION TOBACCO	3.960	0.16
AL-RAZI	0.810	0.01
UNITED ENG. IND	0.220	0.00
NUTRI DAR	0.760	0.02
182.81	point =	+0.07%

TOURISTS' DINAR

CENTRAL BANK BULLETIN

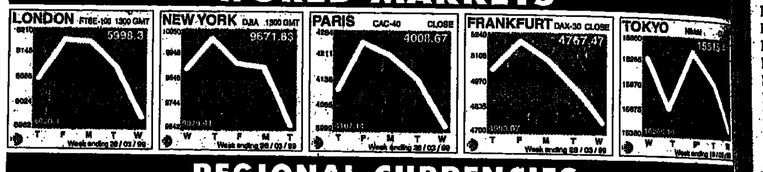
CURRENCY	ASK	BID
US DOLLAR	0.7080	0.7100
G.BRITAIN STERLING	1.1576	1.1634
GERMANY MARK	0.3944	0.3964
SWITZERLAND FRANC	0.4861	0.4875
FRANCE FRANC	0.1176	0.1182
JAPAN YEN*	0.6014	0.6044
HOLLAND GUILDER	0.3501	0.3518
ITALY LIRA*	0.0398	0.0400
EURO	0.7714	0.7753

DEPOSIT INTEREST RATES

DEPOSIT INTEREST PRICES

CURRENCY	1 M.	3 M.	6 M.	1 YEAR
US$	4.5600	4.6200	4.8300	4.9[illegible]
GBP	5.1900	5.1200	5.0800	5.0[illegible]
EURO	2.8750	2.8750	2.8750	2.87[illegible]
DM	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.000[illegible]
CHF	1.0000	1.0938	1.1563	1.31[illegible]
JPY	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.000[illegible]

WORLD MARKETS



REGIONAL CURRENCIES

ACCESS 4646868 Wednesday, 24 -03- 99

CURRENCY	JORDAN DINAR	SAUDI RIYAL	U.A.E DIRHAM	BAHRAIN DINAR	OMAN RIYAL	QATAR RIYAL	KUWAIT DINAR	EGYPT POUND	US DOLLAR
JORDAN DINAR	1.0000	0.1888	0.1927	1.8780	1.8387	0.1945	2.3115	0.2077	0.7080
SAUDI RIYAL	5.2977	1.0000	1.0209	9.9491	9.7411	1.0302	12.2455	1.1008	3.7500
U.A.E DIRHAM	5.1893	0.9795	1.0000	9.7454	9.5416	1.0091	11.9948	1.0781	3.6740
BAHRAIN DINAR	0.5325	0.1005	0.1026	1.0000	0.9791	0.1035	1.2308	0.1106	0.3770
OMAN RIYAL	0.5439	0.1027	0.1048	1.0214	1.0000	0.1058	1.2571	0.1130	0.3851
QATAR RIYAL	5.1427	0.9707	0.9910	9.6578	9.4559	1.0000	11.8870	1.0684	3.6410
KUWAIT DINAR	0.4326	0.0817	0.0834	0.8125	0.7955	0.0841	1.0000	0.0899	0.3063
EGYPT POUND	4.8138	0.9086	0.9276	9.0398	8.8508	0.9360	11.1263	1.0000	3.4090
LEBANON LIRA	21.2288	4.0071	4.0909	39.8674	39.0339	4.1280	49.0695	4.4102	15.0350
US DOLLAR	1.4124	0.2666	0.2722	2.6525	2.5971	0.2746	3.2648	0.2934	1.0000
G.BRITAIN STERLING	0.8626	0.1628	0.1662	1.6200	1.5861	0.1677	1.9939	0.1792	0.6107
GERMANY MARK	2.5266	0.4769	0.4869	4.7448	4.6456	0.4913	5.8400	0.5249	1.7884
SWITZERLAND FRANC	2.0565	0.3882	0.3963	3.8621	3.7813	0.3999	4.7535	0.4272	1.4560
FRANCE FRANC	8.4730	1.5994	1.6328	15.9122	15.5795	1.6476	19.5850	1.7602	5.9989
JAPAN YEN *	1.6578	0.3129	0.3195	3.1133	3.0482	0.3224	3.8319	0.3444	1.1737
HOLLAND GUILDER	2.8466	0.5373	0.5486	5.3459	5.2341	0.5535	6.5798	0.5914	2.0154
SWEDEN KRONA	11.5900	2.1877	2.2335	21.7658	21.3107	2.2537	26.7897	2.4078	8.2057
ITALY LIRA**	25.0116	4.7212	4.8199	46.9714	45.9894	4.8636	57.8133	5.1961	17.7082
BELGIUM FRANC	52.1102	9.8363	10.0419	97.8621	95.8161	10.1329	120.4505	10.8257	36.8940
AUSTRALIA DOLLAR	2.2111	0.4174	0.4261	4.1523	4.0655	0.4299	5.1108	0.4593	1.5654
GREEC DRACHIMA	4.1935	0.7916	0.8081	7.8753	7.7107	0.8154	9.6931	0.8712	2.9690
CYPRUS POUND	0.7516	0.1419	0.1448	1.4114	1.3819	0.1461	1.7372	0.1561	0.5321
AUSTRIA SCHILLING	17.7737	3.3550	3.4251	33.3788	32.6810	3.4561	41.0833	3.6924	12.5838
CANADA DOLLAR	2.1292	0.4019	0.4103	3.9987	3.9151	0.4140	4.9216	0.4423	1.5075
EURO	1.2915	0.2438	0.2489	2.4255	2.3748	0.2511	2.9853	0.2683	0.9144

INTERNATIONAL CURRENCIES

CURRENCY	US DOLLAR	G.BRITAIN STERLING	GERMANY MARK	SWITZERLAND FRANC	FRANCE FRANC	JAPAN YEN *	HOLLAND GUILDER	ITALY LIRA	EURO
US DOLLAR	1.0000	1.6374	0.5590	0.6868	0.1667	0.8520	0.4962	5.6471	1.0936
G.BRITAIN STERLING	0.6107	1.0000	0.3414	0.4195	0.1018	0.5203	0.3030	3.4488	0.6679
GERMANY MARK	1.7888	2.9290	1.0000	1.2286	0.2982	1.5241	0.8876	10.1015	1.9557
SWITZERLAND FRANC	1.4560	2.3841	0.8140	1.0000	0.2427	1.2405	0.7224	8.2222	1.5923
FRANCE FRANC	5.9989	9.8226	3.3536	4.1201	1.0000	5.1111	2.9765	33.8754	6.5604
JAPAN YEN*	117.3700	192.1816	65.6138	80.6113	19.5653	1.0000	58.2366	662.8003	128.3[illegible]
HOLLAND GUILDER	2.0154	3.3000	1.1267	1.3842	0.3360	1.7171	1.0000	11.3812	2.2[illegible]
SWEDEN KRONA	8.2057	13.4360	4.5873	5.6358	1.3679	6.9913	4.0715	46.3384	8.9[illegible]
ITALY LIRA**	17.7082	28.9954	9.8995	12.1622	2.9519	15.0875	8.7864	1.0000	19.3[illegible]
BELGIUM FRANC	36.8940	60.4102	20.6250	25.3393	6.1501	31.4339	18.3060	208.3442	40.[illegible]
AUSTRALIA DOLLAR	1.5654	2.5632	0.8751	1.0752	0.2610	1.3338	0.7767	8.8402	1.7[illegible]
GREEC DRACHIMA	2.9690	4.8614	1.6598	2.0391	0.4949	2.5296	1.4732	16.7662	3.2[illegible]
CYPRUS POUND	0.5321	0.8713	0.2975	0.3655	0.0887	0.4534	0.2640	3.0046	0.5[illegible]
AUSTRIA SCHILLING	12.5838	20.6047	7.0348	8.6427	2.0977	10.7215	6.2438	71.0620	13.7[illegible]
CANADA DOLLAR	1.5075	2.4684	0.8427	1.0354	0.2513	1.2844	0.7480	8.5130	1.[illegible]
EURO	0.9144	1.4973	0.5112	0.6280	0.1524	0.7791	0.4537	5.1638	1.[illegible]

ARAB CAPITAL MARKETS

ARAB INS GROUP	0.83	+0.01
ARAB INT.INS.	0.075	+0.007
AHLI COML. BANK	0.410	+0.006
A.B.C. -$-	6.25	+0.10
BAH INSURANCE	0.274	
BANK BAH + KWT	0.220	+0.004
BAH COML FALT	0.244	+0.006
BAH HOTEL	0.202	
B.DUTY FREE	0.500	-0.005
BAH MILLS	0.175	-0.002
BAH.ISLAM. BANK	0.260	-0.012
BAH ISLAMIC INS	0.298	+0.018
BAH + KWT INS.	0.400	
BAH INT. BANK	0.149	
BAH.LEISURE CO.	0.098	+0.001
BAH MID E. BANK	0.157	+0.001
BAH MAR.+M.INT	0.472	
BAH SAUDI BANK	0.149	-0.001
BAH SHIP R ENG	0.520	+0.020
BAH TOURISM	0.136	-0.002
BAH TELECOM	0.550	+0.005
DELMON POULTRY	0.166	-0.004
FAYSAL ISLAM -$-	2.08	+0.08
TRAFFCO	0.302	
UNION GULF INS.	0.106	-0.003
NATL. IMP+EXP	0.615	+0.015

MENA INVEST	79.00	+1.91
MISR HOTELS	117.05	+1.05
NATL SOC GEN BNK	63.49	+2.06
EG ELECTR CABLES	44.00	+2.54
DEV & ENG CONSLT	22.56	+4.93
MAHMOUDIA CONTR	21.15	+4.81
GIZA CONTRACTING	53.50	+1.73
ARAB INTL CONS	27.80	+3.23
ALEX MILLS	28.91	+2.98
MOHANDES BK E	17.60	+4.51

AHLIA DETERGENT		
AHLIA INSURANCE		
N/A		
AL AMAL IND		
ANWAR IND & TRAD		
BATINAH DAIRY		
ALIANCE HOUS BK	0.930	+0.060
BATNAH HOTELS		
BRAIMI HOTEL		
KHWR DEV SVC		
RAWDHA QUARRIES		
SALLAN FOOD IND		
ALSAWADI RES	1.15	+0.05
AREEJ VEG OILS		
BANDER RAWDAH GU		
BAHRAIN INTL BK	2.950	+0.050
BK MCT AHLI OM		
BK OM BAH & KUW	1.400	+0.040
COMM BK OMAN		
CONST MATERIALS		
COM STAT IND		
DHOFAR EVGS CO	1.850	+0.030
DOFAR CATTLEFEED	2.000	+0.100
DHOFAR INVST DEV		
DHFR MARBLE GRAN		
DHOFAR INSURANCE		
DHOFAR TOURISM		
FINANCIAL SERV		
GULF HOTELS OMAN		
GLF INV SERV		
INTERIOR HTL		
JBL AKHDAR TRD F		

AUDI BANQUE	28.2500	
BQ. EUROPEENNE	3.0000	+0.0625
BOU KHALIL MKTS	2.0000	
BQ LIBANAISE COM		
BANK OF BEIRUT	7.5625	
BYBLOS BANK	2.6250	+0.1250
ETERNIT		
LEB. HLDGS FUND		
RYMCO		
STE CIM BLANCS B		
STE CIM BLANCS N		
STE CIM LIBANAIS	0.6250	
SOLIDERE A	8.0000	
SOLIDERE B	8.3750	
UNICERAMIC B C	2.0000	-0.0625

NBAD INDEX	3743.67	
COMM. BANK OF DUBAI	88	
NAT. BANK OF SHARJAH	16	
EMIRATES INT. BANK	37	50
NAT. BANK OF RASALKHAIMAH	30	
NAT. BANK OF UMM AL QUWAIN	300	
ABU DHABI COMM. BANK	595	
INVEST BANK	33	
NAT. BANK OF FUJAIRAH	300	
NAT. BANK OF ABUDHABI	700	
DUBAI ISLAMIC BANK	22	
NAT. BANK OF DUBAI	970	
BANK OF SHARJAH	29	
COMM. BANK INTERNATIONAL	8	
UNION NAT. BANK	45	
ABU DHABI ISLAMIC BANK	25	50
MASHREQ BANK	1300	
UNITED ARAB BANK	38	
FIRST GULF BANK	6	
ETISALAT	1715	
ABU DHABI NAT. HOTELS CO	174	
NAT. MARINE DREDGING	630	
UNION PROPERTIES CO.	41	
ABU DHABI AVIATION	630	
ABU DHABI NAT. FOODSTUFF CO.	37	
DUBAI INVESTMENT CO.	15	15
ABU DHABI SHIP BUILDING CO.	30	
EMAAR CO.	31	
OASIS INT. LEASING CO.	21	50
TABREED	11	50
JULPHAR	4	25
PRIME BULDING TRADING EST.	9	50
OMAN INSURANCE CO.	980	
ALAIN AHLIA INSURANCE CO.	1320	
AL DAFRAH INSURANCE CO.	640	
ABU DHABI NAT. INSURANCE CO	110	
THE EMIRATE INSURANCE CO	86	
AL KHAZNEH INSURANCE CO.	150	
AL BUHAIRAH INSURANCE CO.	15	
DUBAI NAT. INSURANCE CO.	5	25
UNION INSURANCE CO.	10	50
AL WATHBEH INSURANCE CO	5	15
AL SHARJAH INSURANCE CO.	9	50

ARAB BNK CORP		
AERATED CONCRETE		
ARABIAN GEN INV.	0.194	+0.01
AHLEIA INS. CO.		
ARAB REAL EST.		
ARAB INS GROUP	0.248	+0.00
BKME KUWAIT	0.255	
BURGAN BANK	0.158	-0.00
LIVESTOCK T.T CO	0.300	+0.01
NATIONALCLEANING	0.590	
KWT COMPUTER CO.	0.108	+0.00
COM. FACILITIES	0.400	-0.01
FIRST INV. FUND		
KWT FOOD CO.	0.590	
GULF CEMENT		
GULF INS. CO.		
INT FIN ADVISERS	0.110	
INTL INV GROUP		
INT'L INVEST PRJ	0.118	-0.00
INDEPEN. PETROL	0.290	+0.00
AL-AHLI BANK	0.156	
AL-ARABI HOLDING	0.275	+0.00
AREF INVEST GRP	0.126	+0.00
AL-AHLEIA INV CO	0.186	+0.00
AJIAL REAL EST.		
BAHRAIN INT. BNK	0.120	
BOUBYAN PETROCH.	0.168	-0.00
GULF CABLE IND.	1.420	
COMMERCIAL BANK		
COAST INV & DEV.		
EDUCATIONAL SERV	0.180	+0.00
FUJAIRAH CEMENT	0.102	
UNITED FISHERIES	0.072	-0.00
GULF BANK	0.395	-0.00
GULF GLASS CO.		
HILAL CEMENT CO.	0.700	+0.02
INDUST INVEST CO		
THE INT INVESTOR		
INT'L MURABAHA		

WILLIAM ENNENBACH
under WESTERN EYES

'THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF FOREIGN AID'

On an almost weekly basis it is reported that the Jordanian government is the recipient of a financial aid package, invariably from Japan or a Western European government. During the past twenty years, the largest benefactor has been the United States.

While the generosity of the donor countries is appreciated and vital to maintaining the stability of the Jordanian economy, questions invariably arise as to why such monies are forthcoming. Historically, there are few examples of nations being generous to others, with the exceptions of relief assistance in times of natural disasters. Usually, when aid is provided, there is the expectation of reciprocity in kind from the country receiving financial help.

The economic saying, "Nothing for nothing" applies in the area of foreign aid as in any other financial transaction between mutually consenting parties. Most foreign aid provided by the United States is of the "tied" variety, meaning that a high (often 90 percent) of the monies donated come with strings attached. In other words, the nation receiving financial assistance is required to spend a portion of the money on the purchase of goods manufactured by the private sector in the donor state. Foreign aid becomes, for want of better description, subsidies for American corporations. Given this reality, it has amazed me that the US Congress has always been so against generous foreign aid packages.

Seemingly generous donations by foreign countries also have political implications. Nothing was more evident that the $1 billion dividend received by Jordan from the United States after signing the 1994 peace agreement with Israel. As a result of this nation ending its formal hostilities with its neighbor to the west, suddenly $600 million in debt was forgiven, and additional sums made available. A problem with being the recipient of aid based upon political reasons is the danger of dependency relationships developing between the benefactor and beneficiary. Independence in decision-making may be restricted by the fear that future aid will not be forthcoming.

Another source of foreign aid takes the form of military assistance. Again, when the United States announces its aid packages to Jordan they are broken down between military and non-military assistance. The former is represented by planes, tanks, and other equipment as well as training. Although such military aid is represented as necessary for the security of Jordan and enhancing the strategic interests of the United States, as in economic aid, US private companies (in this case defense contractors) receive the financial benefits of such generosity. Questions also arise as to the extent to which the recipient's security is increased by the acquisition of sophisticated weapons systems. As the largest purchasers of foreign military equipment, are the Saudis more secure, or more dependent upon Western contractors?

A final point concerning foreign aid relates the actual amounts of such aid which actually benefit those most in need. Foreign aid programs are notorious for the high percentages of total aid packages which are eaten up in administrative costs. Also, the lack of transparency in such aid transactions often results in siphoning off monies, often through the hands of agents managing foreign purchases required under tied aid restrictions.

Given the above, it would be interesting to analyze a full accounting of the amounts of foreign aid received by Jordan since 1994, and attempt to determine the effectiveness of these donations in implementing specific economic development projects. On the surface, there appears an imbalance between the amounts donated by foreign nations and the prevailing economic problems confronting Jordan.

THE ARAB DAILY Invites
PHARMACIST
San'a Dababneh

Dear San'a:
I am really trying to change my eating habits and I am constantly aware that I have to watch out for my cholesterol level. Would you please direct me with a few tips on how to do that.
thanks

Dear Reader:
Here are a few tips that I hope you will find useful and I encourage you to take in order to ensure that you continue with your new resolution.

Tip 1
Cholesterol issues can be very confusing yet maintaining proper cholesterol levels is very important to your health and longevity. High cholesterol levels may lead to heart disease and some forms of cancer.
It's considered healthier to have total cholesterol levels below 200, with an HDL of at least 45-50 in men and 50-60 in women. However, your individual profile may change the requirements for you. Check with your doctor.

Tip 2
While it's important to try to be aware of the fat content of the products you buy, other factors may lead to increased cholesterol levels. Sugar and alcohol both raise the level of natural cholesterol your body produces. Stress also leads to an overproduction of cholesterol. All these factors, along with a healthy diet, need to be considered in the fight against high cholesterol and heart disease.

Tip 3
You can cut your cholesterol intake without necessarily sacrificing your favorite recipes. Simply substitute two egg whites for each whole egg. You'll still get the benefit of essential protein without the additional cholesterol. However, if you are on the borderline of a high cholesterol level, you may want to follow up with your doctor for a laboratory test.

Tip 4
Even women whose LDL cholesterol levels have remained consistently low throughout their lives may find a sharp rise during the post-menopausal years. Don't be lulled into a false sense of security. Have your cholesterol checked regularly, especially after the onset of menopause. You may want to try hormone replacement therapy in an effort to keep LDL levels lower. Weigh the options carefully with your doctor, however. Hormone replacement therapy has also been linked to an increase of breast cancer risk.

RANA ASFOUR
Health editor

BEAT HOLIDAY WEIGHT!

Holidays are designated to add fat to diets and waistlines. First, there are the rich foods we traditionally eat. Then there are the social gatherings where we tend to eat more than we otherwise would. And finally, for most of us, there's the stress factor: too much to do in too little time, too many people to meet and greet, too many expectations to fulfill. With all the extra food at hand, eating becomes a natural way to take the edge off holiday stress. Except, of course, that it ultimately adds stress in the form of unwanted kilos.

The solution is not to restrict but to replace the most fattening holiday foods with leaner substitutes.

Here are a few guidelines that could help:

1. Take off all removable fat sources, such as poultry skin, visible meat fat, butter and cream.
2. Look for reduced fat substitutes, now increasingly available on grocery shelves, such as cake and cookies.
3. Follow reduced-fat recipes for the holiday favorites you create in your kitchen.
4. When there is no substitute for the rich thing, eat a modest portion or skip it and have something entirely different that's equally tasty but lean.

This way you can come to enjoy your holiday, socialize with the relatives and have a happy, healthy and fat-reduced Eid.

RAZZLEBERRY TRIFLE

Yields 10 servings
Nutritional value per serving:
Calories: 191
Cholesterol: 1mg
Fat: 1g
Fiber: 1.5g
Protein: 5.4g
Sodium: 221mg

Ingredients:
2 1/2 cups sliced fresh strawberries
1 cup fresh or frozen (thawed) raspberries
2 tablespoons sugar
1 package regular or instant vanilla pudding mix (6-serving size)
3 cups skimmed milk
10 slices (1/2-inch each) loaf cake
1/4 cup low-sugar raspberry jam

Topping:
3/4 cup light whipped topping
3/4 cup vanilla yogurt

Method:
1. Combine the strawberries, raspberries and sugar in a medium-sized bowl and stir to mix well. Set the mixture aside for 20 minutes to let the juices develop.
2. Prepare the pudding with skimmed milk according to package directions. Set aside. If you're using regular pudding, let it chill for 1 to 2 hours before proceeding with the recipe.
3. Spread one side of each cake slice with a thin layer of the jam. Arrange half of the slices over the bottom of a 3-quart trifle bowl or other decorative glass bowl. Top first with half of the fruit and then with half of the pudding. Repeat the layers.
4. To make the topping, place the whipped topping in a small bowl and fold the yogurt into the topping. Swirl the mixture over the top of the trifle, cover and chill for at least 2 hours before serving.

DENTAL HYGIENISTS ADEPT IN DETECTING BULIMIA AND ANOREXIA

CHICAGO, (UPI) — March is Nutrition Month and the American Dental Hygienists' Association is pointing out the importance of knowing and treating two eating disorders, bulimia nervosa and anorexia nervosa, that are especially common among young American women who deprive themselves of essential nutrients. Dental hygienists are one of few health care professionals who can detect the physical damages that may accompany these disorders.

"When bulimia is suspected, the most important task a dental hygienist can do is to take careful notes," says ADHA President Beverly P. Whitford, RDH, BS. "This involves taking a complete health history which notes every finding that might indicate an eating disorder."

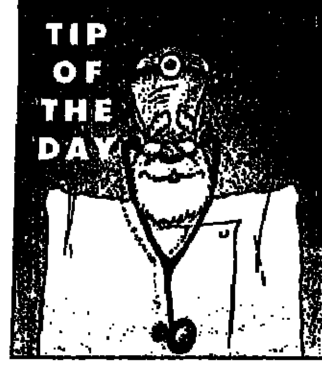
Bulimia, characterized by compulsive overeating (binging) followed by self-induced purging, produces signs and symptoms that can be detected in the mouth during a routine oral exam. Whereas the anorexic patient may achieve extreme weight loss by severely restricting calorie intake, the oral manifestations in both patients may consist of dry mouth, reddening of the palate and dry, chapped lips.

In addition to these symptoms, the repeated vomiting, which is a common characteristic of both disorders, exposes teeth to gastric acids which erode tooth enamel, the hard protective covering of the tooth. The result is teeth that become rounded and soft or amalgam fillings that may protrude above the tooth's surface.

Eating disorders often can be successfully treated when detected early and the ADHA recommends that patients with eating disorders seek oral health care.

"Many bulimic and anorexic patients are often more comfortable talking with a dental hygienist who may not represent the kind of authority figure that a doctor or dentist does," concludes Whitford. "Therefore, the dental hygienist is in a position to help in a way that family and other health care professionals may not be."

Symptoms of other systemic diseases often are also first detected in the oral cavity. They include HIV, oral cancer, osteoporosis, substance abuse and diabetes. The ADHA suggests routine visits to your dental hygienist as a proactive measure in maintaining your overall health.



Happy Eid!

Approach vacations, holidays and special occasions realistically. Perhaps during this period you should focus on maintaining the weight loss you have already achieved. If you feel you deserve a treat, give in to the urge to treat yourself to a hairdo, new make-up, or a bunch of flowers. Don't over-indulge in food and remember that moderation is your key to a good healthy holiday!

A WINNER FOR SURE!

PHOTO BY M. ABU QUTI

Our winner for last week's Uncle Funland was Ahmad J. Abualrub age 11, who paid us all a visit when he came to the newspaper office to pick up his prize. He was warmly received by our editor in chief Ramzi E. Khoury and introduced to all staff members.

Ahmad has five brothers and three sisters and enjoys being part of a large family. They all lived in Florida before moving to Amman. Swimming is what Ahmad misses most about Florida.

Ahmad goes to "Home School" as he calls it. His parents teach him at home and he has a very strict schedule for his work.

His mother was a teacher in Florida and does a weekly check on his work progress, and his father helps him with learning Arabic.

Even with his busy schedule, he still finds time to persue his hobbies of swimming, skating, basketball and reading especially

"HULLABALOO"

When not busy with his hobbies, he likes playing computer games and watching action and adventure movies.

What a busy life he has!

Thank you Amad for the visit and the great time we had with you.

It was certainly a pleasure to meet you.

We are now looking forward to meeting our next winner.

YOU NEVER KNOW IT COULD BE YOU!

PROUD TO LIVE IN JORDAN

by KHALID DALAL

Spending three years of their fruitful life in Jordan, describing it as the most unforgettable country in the world, composing meaningful verse and prose that show their faithful feelings towards the most beloved Late King Hussein and hoping that Jordan will continue its prosperity under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah, Hassan, Yusuf and Yunas Skoien, three brothers, are not only examples of children who love and respect Jordan and Jordanians, but also are honest and loyal children, ready to stand by Jordan in sorrow as well as in joy.

Hassan, aged 15, who studies at Rawdat Al-Ma'aref Schools and Colleges, just like his brothers, describes his residence in Jordan as "the most memorable love and respect I have ever received. We are really proud of being among Jordanians." His brother, 14 year old Yusuf, adds "Jordanians' kind and nice hearts mean a lot to me." Their youngest brother, 13 year old Yunas, continues "I like my stay in Jordan very much."

Hassan, Yusuf and Yunas whose motherland is Norway, stress that "we come here to know more about Jordan, Islam and Arabic language since it is the language of the Holy Quran."

The painful event of the Late King Hussein's departure is dramatized through Hassan's and Yusuf's sincere poem, "You Were The Best."

"Your wonderful qualities have made lasting impression on us that we will admire for as long as we live. You gave us so much to be thankful for," the poem says.

On nearly the same way, Yunas says in his prose, "The Death Of Sayedna King Hussein Bin Talal," "this moment of grief is really unbearable. We, the Jordanians as well as the world as a whole, have been robbed of one of the most precious jewels."

All of them describe the moment they once left Jordan as "a very hard moment. We missed it so much."

Hassan comments on the difference between Jordanians and Norwegians. "Jordanians have a very special quality of honesty and respect." Yusuf adds "Jordanians are warm people while Norwegians are sometimes cold." Yunas continues "Jordanians' hearts are open, in Norway; however, it is somehow close."

They describe their Jordanian friends " they are very nice, don't run away when you need them."

Hassan who wishes to stay in Jordan as long as he can, has been awarded by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma for his participation in a competition held by the Ministry of Education.

He says "I wrote about women's respect, education, earning, marriage and divorce rights, according to the Holy Quran, and I really appreciate Princess Basma's kindness."

Hassan's photo and a quotation from his article, "women's rights" have been nicely portrayed in UNIFEM's calender 1999; in which he says, "according to the Holy Quran, a man and a woman are equally worth of respect. Neither a man is superior to a woman by virtue of being a man, nor a woman is inferior to virtue of being a woman. Thus, the criterion of respect and of being high or low among women and men, is the equality of their deeds."

UNIFEM is the Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade for Women created in 1976.

Furthermore, he won ten certificates of appreciation with distinction. Hassan points out, "anyone who works hard, will reap what he sows."

Yusuf who wishes to be a pilot in the future, also achieves high marks in many subjects. An article written by Yusuf entitled " How to Keep Our Country Clean," says we must keep in mind, "Cleanliness is Next to Godliness."

In spite of being so busy with school work, they find some time to play sports. While Hassan prefers to play judo, karate and handball, in which he has certificates of merit, his brothers like to enjoy playing basketball and reading Arabic as well as English books.

All of them enjoy visiting natural and cultural sites in Jordan like: Petra, Jerash, The Dead Sea and the tombs of the prophets and their disciples, hoping to visit Aqaba in the near future.

One last thing that Hassan, Yusuf and Yunas would like to say to all children "without our mother's support and encouragement, we would not have been able to achieve that much. She is really a gift of Allah."

THE DEATH OF SAYEDNA KING HUSSEIN BIN TALAL

On hearing about the demise of our beloved King Hussein, my eyes as well as everybody else's became dim and our hearts began to palpitate. This news was so shocking that I lost my wits for some time.

The news about the dramatic death of our revered King came like a bombshell to me. This is an irreparable loss indeed. His Majesty's death has left a vacuum in the family. When I saw the King last year, he looked quite hale and hearty.

I send my heartfelt sympathies to Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Majesty King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hamza, and the rest of the Royal family in this hour of sorrow. I pray to Allah, the Almighty, to grant eternal peace to his departed soul.

Yunas Skoien from Norway
Class: 1G6 Rawdat Al-Ma'Aref Schools & colleges

HOW TO KEEP OUR COUNTRY CLEAN

Cleanliness is a good thing. It has very good effects on our health. If we want to enjoy good health, we should make our surroundings neat and clean. In this way, we can lead a very happy and healthy life. Nowadays our countries are over crowded. There is a great increase in population. If we do not pay attention to make countries clean, life will become difficult. Therefore, we should take keen interest to keep our country clean. For this purpose everyone of us should feel his responsibility. First of all, we should keep our houses clean. We should not throw our garbage in the streets. Throwing peels of fruit and pieces of paper any where carelessly is a very bad habit. They make our country dirty. Spitting everywhere creates many problems of hygiene. It causes diseases. We should not spit here and there. For this purpose we should educate our citizens. Through T.V, radio and other media we should train our men, women and children to maintain cleanliness at home and everywhere in the country. The students can be given best training at school. We must keep in mind, "Cleanliness is Next to Godliness."

Cleanliness is necessary to health. Dirt is the mother of ill health and sufferings. It causes all sorts of diseases. Doctors are of opinion that the terrible plagues and epidemics that rag the world today are primarily caused by filthy and insanitary conditions of life. It is, therefore clean that if we want to keep well, we must keep our bodies, clothes, houses, streets, cities, and all other parts of our countries clean.

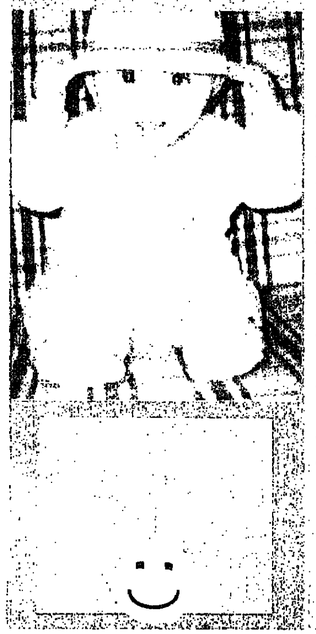
The Holy Qur'an says: Ayah no.80/Surah no.26/ "And Allah (SWT) loves those who keep themselves clean."

Written by: Yusof Skoien (from Norway)
Class: 1G7 Rawdat Al-Ma'Aref Schools & colleges/ Phone no: 5528599.

My Life & My Story

Lynn Alfaro
grade, 12
Mac English School

It has been two years since King Hussein. He was the most [illegible] leader in Jordan.
He made Jordanians happy. Some were today to [illegible]
We love him.
We all wish that he did not die.



Dear Hullabaloo,

I am Arwa J. Abualrub and I am 9 years old. At Eid, I will be ten. I like turtles. We have a turtle; his name is Alphie. He is a nice pet, and funny. He looks like an old man when he walks. Soon we will be getting two baby turtles from my uncle, who also likes turtles. (He has fifteen turtles!) We haven't thought of names for them yet.

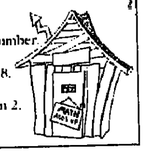
Sincerely,
Arwa

KidCity MATH-A-RAMA
www.kidcity.org

USE YOUR NOGGIN!

Which number between 1 and 10 is the password to the secret math club? Use these five clues to help find the answer.

CLUES:
1. It's an odd number.
2. It's not 2+3.
3. It's less than 8.
4. It's not 9-6.
5. It's more than 2.

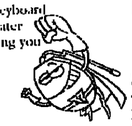


KidCity TECH ZONE
www.kidcity.org

TECH TALK!

Here are five cool terms to add to your internet vocabulary.

AFK—away from keyboard
b4—before
BAK—back at keyboard
BBL—be back later
BCNU—be seeing you



UNCLE ART'S FUNLAND
BY N.A. NUGENT

"GO" WORDS

USE THE CLUES TO FIND SIX FIVE-LETTER WORDS THAT END WITH "GO".

1 A KI[illegible] OF DRUM					G	O
2 A R[illegible] IN AFRICA					G	O
3 AUSTR[illegible] WILD DOG					G	O
4 A [illegible]					G	O
5 FRE[illegible]					G	O
6 A [illegible]					G	O

1. BONGO, 2. CONGO, 3. DINGO, 4. TRAVEGO, 5. [illegible], 6. [illegible]

CONTEST ENTRY

PRINT THE FIRST LETTER OF EACH CLUE BELOW THE PICTURE TO FIND THE ANSWER TO THIS PUZZLE.

COMPLETE AND COLOR, CUT OUT, PRINT NAME, AGE AND ADDRESS. MAIL TO UNCLE ART'S FUNLAND, CARE OF THIS PAPER. ENTRIES ARE JUDGED ON ORIGINALITY, NEATNESS AND ACCURACY. WINNERS NOTIFIED.

RIDDLES 'N' GIGGLES

WHAT DO YOU CALL SOMEONE WHO TALKS TO HIMSELF?
A VENTRILOQUIST

WHAT HAS EARS BUT CAN'T HEAR?
A CORN STALK

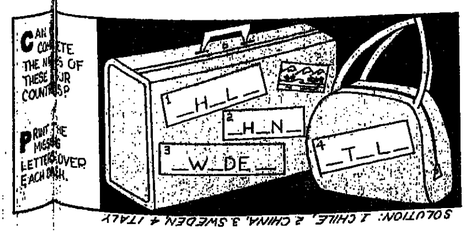
WHAT DID ONE CANDLE SAY TO THE OTHER CANDLE?
ARE YOU GOING OUT TONIGHT?

ADD ONE LETTER TO THE NAME OF A FOREIGN MONETARY UNIT TO SPELL THE NAME OF A COUNTRY IN WHICH IT IS USED.

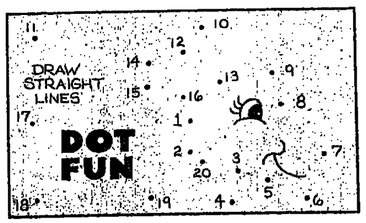
ADD THE LETTER E TO DRAME.

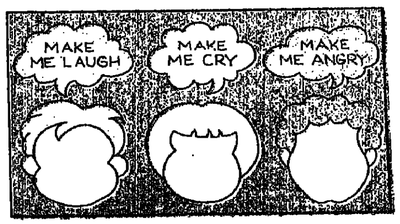
CAN YOU COMPLETE THE NAMES OF THESE FOUR COUNTRIES?

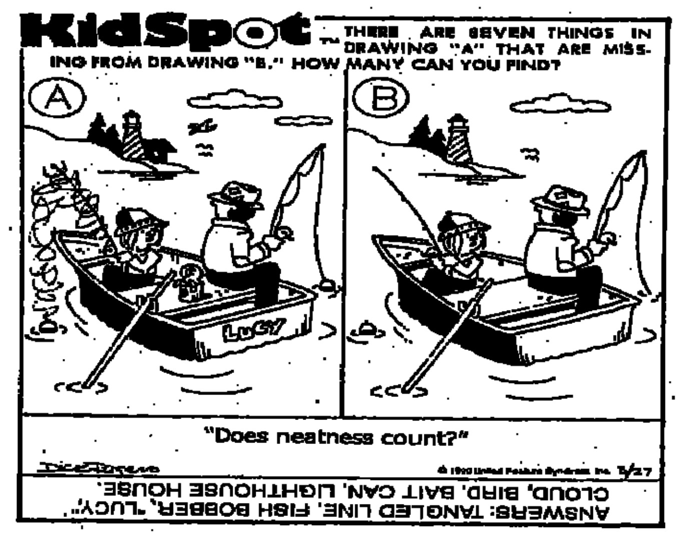
PRINT THE MISSING LETTERS OVER EACH DASH.

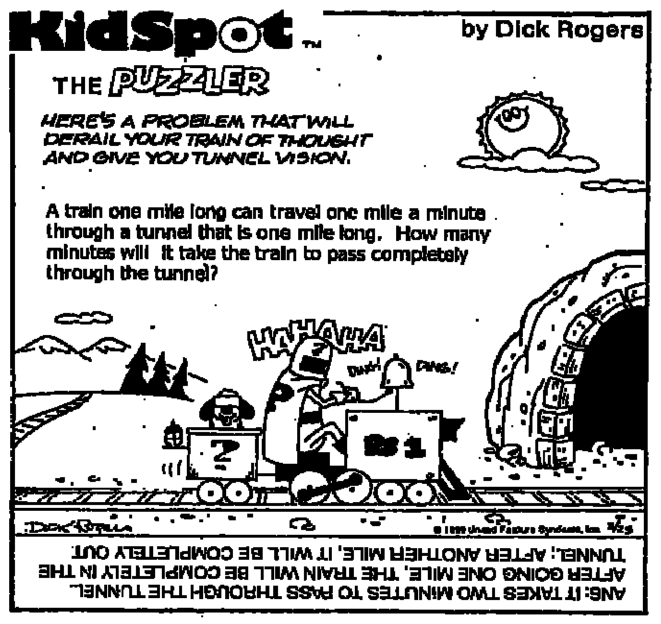


SOLUTION: 1 CHILE, 2 CHINA, 3 SWEDEN & 4 ITALY









KidCity PUZZLE

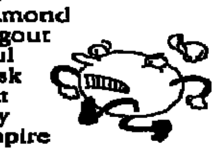
www.kidcity.org

PLAY BALL!

Circle the words from the word list in the puzzle. The leftover letters spell out the answer to this riddle. What kind of dog plays baseball?

_ _ _ _ _ _ _'_ Mutt

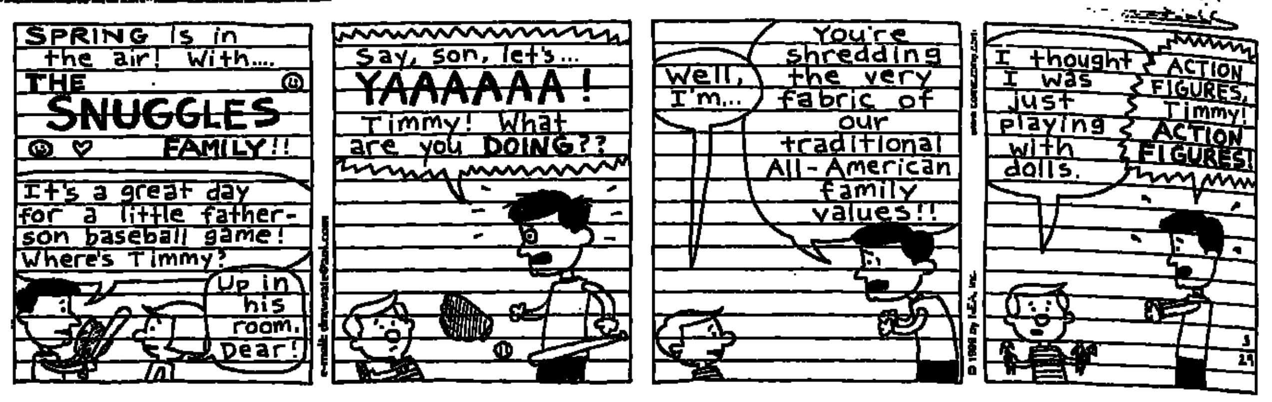
WORD LIST:
Ball
Bat
Diamond
Dugout
Foul
Mask
Mitt
Play
Umpire

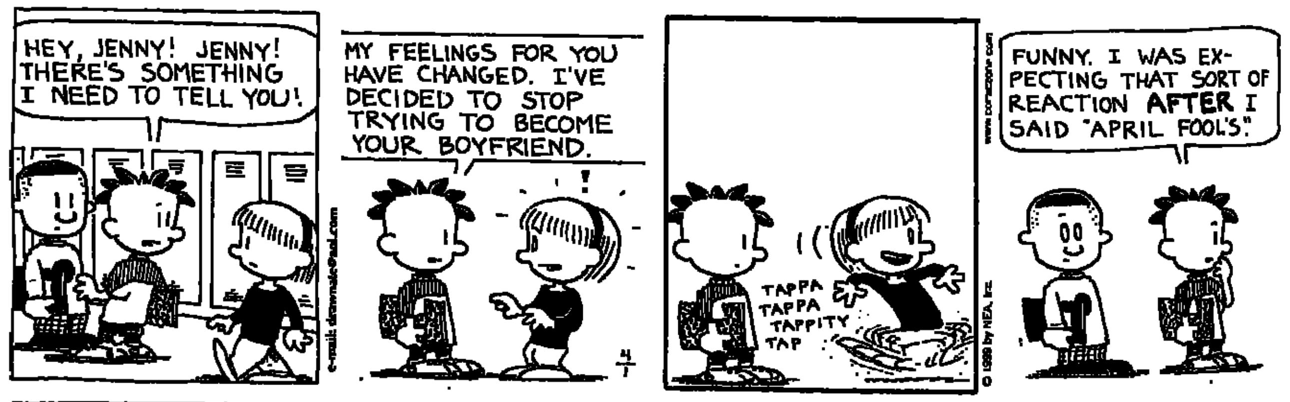


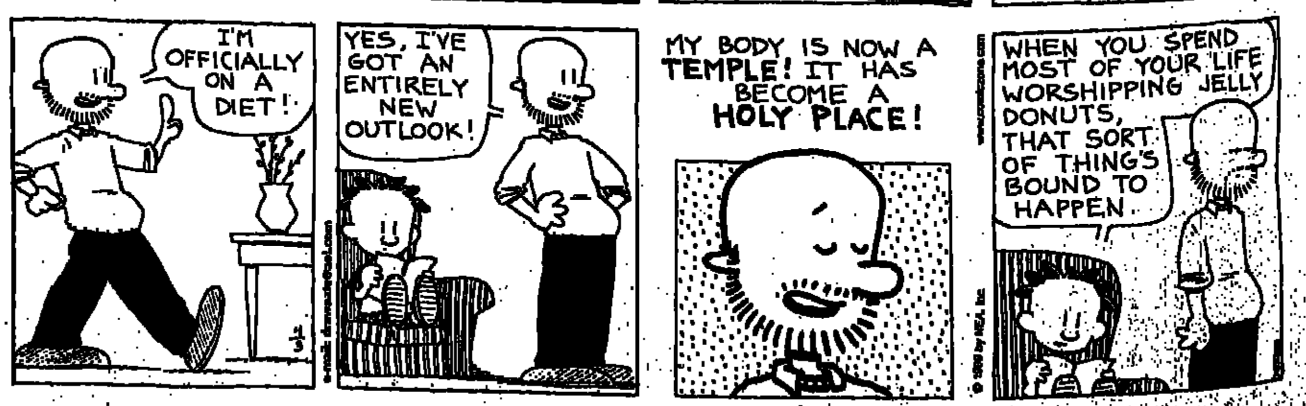
D	I	A	M	O	N	D
U	M	P	I	R	E	C
G	A	L	T	B	A	T
O	S	A	T	A	A	T
U	K	Y	C	L	H	E
T	F	O	U	L	R	S

ANSWER: CATCHER'S

READ ME & COLOR ME







TEST BEFORE THE RINGS

The premarital test can eliminate chances of deformity at birth. It involves a simple blood test to identify the blood group and discover any hidden diseases that could be transmitted to the fetus through the male or female carrier after fertilization.

"Our bodies are made up of 64 chromosomes in which 32 come from the mother and the other half come from the father. Every chromosome carries thousands of genetic material responsible for disease, character, appearance and performance," Zaid Al-Kilani, Gynecologist said.

He added that "serious problems arise if the mother carries diseases such as Thalesemia which is a form of Anemia. If parents are carrying the infected gene, they will have an affected baby. In such a case, marriage is discouraged."

"Those who carry diseased genes may undergo artificial fertilization but a check-up of the resulting zygote is important to know whether it is infected or not. Only when the zygote, which is the cell formed by union of two gametes, is healthy, can it safely be implanted in the mother's womb ensuring that she will have a healthy baby," noted Kilani.

A female should also test for, German measles, which the woman should take a vaccine for, because it may affect the baby with hole in the heart and diabetes, which can kill or deform the baby," said Kilani.

"There are tests taken by males and females, to check for fertilization and HIV (Hidden Immune Virus) test which may cause AIDS to the baby," added Kilani.

"The duty of preventative medicine is to try and purify the community of diseased genes, in order to avoid infant deformity in the future," announced Kilani.

Furthermore Kilani added that "on the international level, budgets are laid down to discover all genomes of human beings and to discover the responsibility of every gene in our bodies, so that we can have more information about diseases in order to prevent them."

"Medical intervention during pregnancy, is required, for example, when the father carries a positive antigen, while the mother carries a negative antigen, in this case marriage is not discouraged, but there are certain measures to be taken when the mother becomes pregnant on how and when the delivery will be. Therefore, we can give the mother an Anitite injection within 72 hours after delivery. This injection will save her second child's life, in case she gets pregnant," explained Kilani.

In many cases parents may seem healthy without having any medical problems but they may still have deformed children.

Kilani said that "in this case, there are recessive genes, which do not show up but are existing. Therefore, when such an infected gene meets another one, the deformity will eventually appear in the child."

"Nowadays, we obtain the DNA of the chromosome and cut it down to see where the infected gene is and what is affecting it," commented Kilani.

However, "experts can replace chromosomes. Unfortunately, this process is currently experimental and very dangerous," said Kilani.

The premarital test is a preventative measure that is recommended in order to save our children's life, in addition to our own.

by **ROLA SHAKIB**

New Survey Shows Men Need to Bone Up On Calcium

MEN AT RISK FROM OSTEOPOROSIS

CHICAGO, (UPI) — Hey men, got strong bones? Of the 28 million Americans affected by the bone-breaking disease osteoporosis, 20 percent are men. But a new survey shows most men don't realize they too, are at great risk for this disease.

In a new survey of 500 men (ages 18 - 36), 76 percent of the respondents seriously underestimated the number of male victims of osteoporosis. The reality is that one in eight men over 50 will suffer a fracture due to this bone-crippling disease. A primary defense to help prevent osteoporosis is a calcium-rich diet, yet most adult men miss out on the calcium they need. Calcium helps build strong bones until about age 35 and helps maintain bone density as men age. Unfortunately, many men stop drinking milk because they mistakenly think it's just for kids.

Men need at least three 8-ounce glasses of milk each day to help meet calcium recommendations, but government studies show that men over the age of 20 are drinking an average of only one glass of milk a day.

"The threat of osteoporosis should be a very real concern for men. Milk is one of the best ways for men to get the calcium they need to lower their risk of developing this debilitating disease," says Robert P. Heaney, MD, professor of medicine at Creighton University in Omaha. "Drinking milk and doing weight-bearing exercise can greatly increase men's chances of strong bones now and later in life."

<u>Take It From the Coach:</u>

The survey also revealed that more than half of the men say they exercise to reduce the risk of health concerns. Former Buffalo Bills Head Coach Marv Levy has long been a champion of keeping milk on the training table to support exercise. "Whenever I sat down with my team for a meal, milk was always on the table. Now, I have milk with my breakfast in the morning and with my meals and snacks throughout the day. Whether you're a professional athlete or a weekend warrior - If you're physically active, milk contains the essential nutrients your body needs," says Levy.

Coach Levy is proof of the winning benefits that come from a lifetime of drinking milk — Levy was coaching in his first of four Super Bowls at an age wheh many people are entering into retirement. "Part of the reason I was able to coach at the highest level into my 70's was because of healthy diet habits such as drinking at least three glasses of milk a day. Men who have a healthy diet which includes milk greatly increase their chances of remaining strong and active throughout their lives," says Levy.

<u>Why Milk ?</u>

Milk is an excellent source of calcium and it is also fortified with vitamin D, which can double the amount of calcium absorbed by the body. In addition to vitamin D and calcium, milk also provides seven other essential nutrients, including protein and potassium.

Although nearly half of all men surveyed said they would drink more milk knowing that it is a source of calcium to help prevent osteoporosis; 4 out of 5 admitted they actually drink less than two glasses of milk a day. Men ages 19-50 need at least three 8-ounce glasses of milk each day to help meet the recommended 1,000 mg of calcium. Government data confirms that 7 out of 10 men aren't meeting these recommendations.

Without adequate calcium in the diet, the body will take what it needs from the bones. Too many calcium withdrawals and too few deposits will eventually weaken bones, setting up the possibility of fragile bones and osteoporosis. "It is not just a woman's disease. One out of every five victims of osteoporosis is a man. Men who don't drink enough milk to get the calcium their bones need may put themselves at risk too," says Dr. Heaney.

In addition to reducing the risk of osteoporosis, new research shows that certain components in lowfat milk may also help reduce the risk of other chronic diseases like hypertension.

Coach Mary Levy's Game Plan for a Lifetime of Strong Bones:

For men looking to put osteoporosis on ice, at least three glasses of milk everyday should be part of the game plan to maintaining strong bones and good health:

<u>The Morning Kick Off:</u> Grab a cafe latte instead of the usual black coffee to get you moving in the morning

<u>Half Time:</u> Wash down your lunchtime meal with some fat free milk

<u>Two Minute Warning:</u> Throw fruit, ice and milk in a blender for a high endurance snack.

<u>Running Out The Clock:</u> Keep a pitcher of milk on the dinner table to satisfy your thirst and end the day's events with a strong finish.

<u>Post Game:</u> A glass of warm milk can help you relax and fall asleep; for an extra twist, add chocolate syrup.

FTC FINDS 'VITAMIN O' HARD TO SWALLOW

WASHINGTON, (UPI) — The Federal Trade Commission has filed a complaint against the makers of a dietary supplement called Vitamin O, claiming the product is nothing more than bottled water sold at $10 per ounce.

The Spokane Spokesman-Review reports the two Spokane-area companies that market the product, Rose Creek Health Products Inc. and Staff of Life Inc., claim Vitamin O can cure or prevent serious diseases such as cancer, heart disease and lung disease.

One of the product's key selling points is that it contains "stabilized oxygen," hence the "O" in its name.

Dennis Roberts of Rose Creek Health Products said the company will defend itself against the charges.

Roberts said: "We're very proud of the product. It has helped a lot of people."

But the FTC complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Spokane says "Vitamin O appears to be nothing more than saltwater."

The agency says it has several pending complaints against producers of dietary supplements that claim to cure various ailments. Because the products offer only "natural" ingredients, they can be sold without the approval of the Food and Drug Administration.

The FTC is seeking a permanent injunction against the companies selling Vitamin O, which has been advertised in such publications as USA Today and says it wants them to pay court costs and refund consumers' money.

INTERNIC PROMOTES ITS OWN SITE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government-selected company that assigns most of the world's Internet addresses made a surprise move to steer customers of an important Web directory to its private commercial site, and the government wants to know why.

"We're very concerned," Becky Burr, administrator with the Commerce Department, said Tuesday. "This was undertaken without consultation with the United States government.

People trying to visit the popular "Internic" directory - which checks the availability of a new Web address - are being swept automatically instead to the home page for Network Solutions Inc., which offers to register Internet addresses with the .com, .net or .org suffixes for $119.

"The community has had it for a long time, and they're used to having it for a reference tool," said Michael Roberts, president of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, which is assuming most of the management responsibilities for the Internet from the US government.

"Whether this sort of brute-force approach to closing it is appropriate, there are a lot of questions about that," Roberts said. "The manner in which they did it seemed pretty inappropriate."

The government is upset because the information directory has traditionally been considered a community resource, like a giant telephone book for the Web, and because it owns Internic as a registered trademark.

"Our view is, this information has been freely available to the Internet community for a long time," Burr said. "If there is some reason to change that, we need to be consulted."

The information is still free, but one generally must go through the commercial Web site to see it.

The unexpected change occurred overnight last Friday. It illustrates the difficulty the government is having giving private industry the job of running the worldwide computer network, which is becoming the most crucial communications medium for the digital age. Hundreds e-mailed the Commerce Department to complain.

"We're entering a very uncertain period," said Jay Fenello, president of Iperdome Inc., an Internet company.

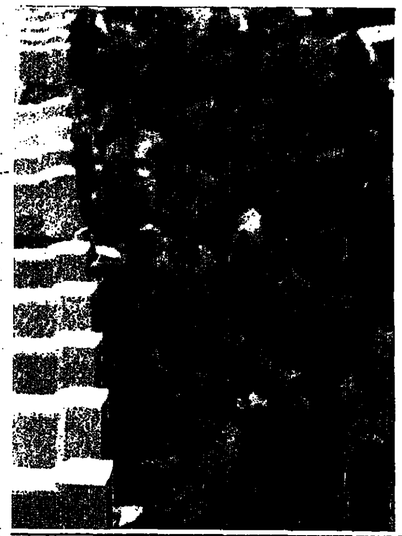
Network Solutions, based in Herndon, Virginia, has enjoyed a lucrative, exclusive government agreement to register most of the world's addresses since 1993. The company has registered more than 4 million Web sites and had $93.7 million in sales last year.

Its decision last weekend to quietly steer visitors from Internic to its own site comes just days before Roberts' organization selects five companies that will compete with Network Solutions in assigning Web addresses. Roberts said the change has generated so much consternation that his organization may delay selection of those new registration companies.

A spokesman for Network Solutions, Chris Clough, said the Internic information directory is legally a customer list owned by his company. He said the company decided last weekend to consolidate several Web sites it maintained, including Internic, to anticipate changes in how the Internet will be managed.

The California-based Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN, was expected to select five new Web registration companies worldwide soon.

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT CEBIT



HANOVER — The 1999 annual computer equipment fair CeBIT was winding up a week-long run in Hanover on Wednesday with organizers reporting a record number of visitors. The Hanover fair company Deutsche Messe AG said that some 700,000 people attended this year's show, some 20,000 more than last year. Among the visitors were 126,000 from abroad, a slight increase. Fair chairman Hubert Lange said the CeBIT show had established itself as the "summit meeting of the virtual world", and exhibitors had never been more upbeat than was the case this year. The 1999 show featured 7,341 exhibitors who booked almost 400,000 square metres of display space. A Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA) survey of companies determined that many hefty business deals were concluded in Hanover during a show in which the focus themes were the internet and electronic commerce — Deutsche Presse-Agentur.

IBM, Sharp deal: UBIQUITOUS COMPUTING

TOKYO (R) — U.S. computer giant International Business Machines Corp said on Wednesday that it will cooperate with Japan's Sharp Corp in the computing business, joining a flurry of cross-border alliances targeting the potentially lucrative market.

A spokesman for IBM Japan said the two companies had agreed to cooperate in the area of 'pervasive computing,' the concept of controlling automobiles, home appliances and other devices equipped with integrated c sircuits via a network.

As a first step, the two firms will cooperate in making compatible Sharp's popular personal digital assistant, Zaurus, and Lotus Development Corp's Notes Domino software, the spokesman said. Lotus is a unit of IBM.

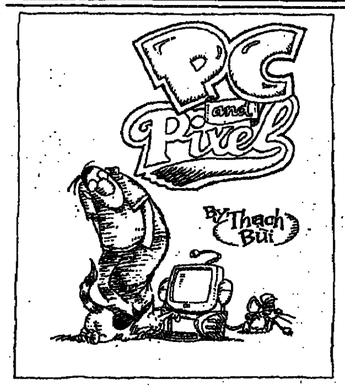
Further details of the alliance will be announced at a joint news conference in Tokyo later on Wednesday, but media reports said their partnership could lead to the joint development of such items as microwave ovens that could take in cooking recipes from the Internet through a home network.

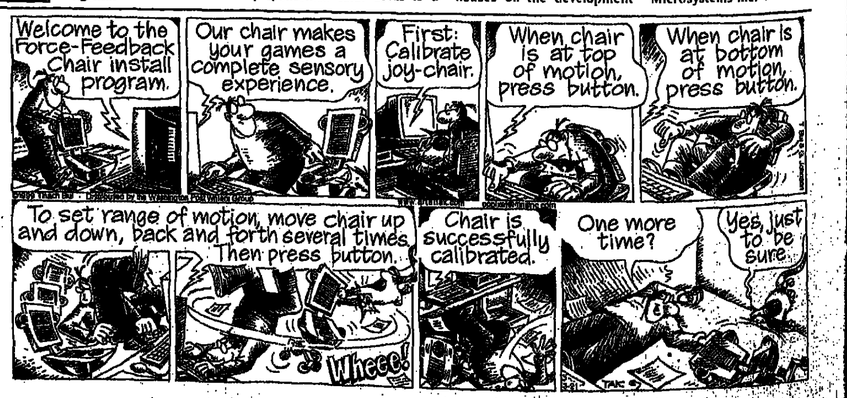
The announcement of the tie-up encouraged buying in Sharp shares listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Sharp ended the morning session up 18 yen or 1.5 percent at 1,211 yen.

Spurred by last year's launch of digital terrestrial TV services overseas, Japanese electronic appliance makers have rushed to forge ties with foreign computer houses on the development of digital computing technology that would link devices such as computers, digital TVs, video cameras and video cassette recorders in a home network.

The move came at a time when domestic sales of conventional home electronics products are slumping under the nation's longest and steepest recession since World War Two, hitting the earnings of many electronics manufacturers.

Japan's electronic giants such as Sony Corp and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co Ltd are already in separate alliances with Microsoft Corp for the development of next-generation home multimedia products. Many others have also tied up with other U.S. computer giants such as Sun Microsystems Inc.





UNESCO HOLDS CONTEST FOR BEST AMATEUR WEB SITES

THE UNITED NATIONS Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is holding a $5,000 global competition in search of the best web-sites on the Internet, it announced in a press release Tuesday.

The UNESCO web prize will be awarded in recognition of outstanding achievements by artists, designers and programmers in creating websites in the field of UNESCO's competence.

The prize recognizes the cultural and social importance of the information and communication technologies and their use in the promotion of the goals of UNESCO. Its aim is the conditions are that information presented on the website be informative and relevant to education, science, culture, communication, information and informatics, as well as having multicultural and multilingual aspects.

Other competition conditions are available online at view at: www.unesco.org/webworld/webprize.

According to the press release, the competition is in two categories: Category I is free-access while Category II is public domain.

Meanwhile, use of free software is strongly recommended, while use multi-media applications is encouraged. The website must also be accessible via all browsers. The competition is open to all. Students, especially those working in the field of new technologies, are particularly encouraged to participate. Registration for the contest closes on May 31, 1999, while projects must be submitted by July 30, 1999 — The Arab Daily.

S. KOREAN PROTEST MS WIN 98 PRICES

SEOUL (AFP) — Hundreds of small South Korean computer retailers rallied here Wednesday, accusing US giant Microsoft Corp. of abusing its power to drive them out of business following a row over copyright piracy.

An estimated crowd of 1,000 personal computer (PC) retailers, who gathered in an a busy area crammed with small computer shops in Seoul's Yongsan District, threatened to launch a boycott campaign against Microsoft.

"Microsoft, stop abusing monopoly power," chanted the protestors as a Korean farmers' music band pounded on drums and bronze gongs.

Similar protests by PC retailers took place in four other major provincial cities, with demonstrators accusing the software firm of unfairly monopolizing the market to maintain "unreasonably" high prices for its products.

The protestors also demanded that Microsoft lower its prices for its computer operating software, Windows 98, accusing it of discriminating against small retailers in favor of large businesses.

Lee Douck-Hoon, president of the Yongsan Electronics Market Promotion Cooperative, said the retailers were infuriated by Microsoft using traps to capture retailers who used illegal copies.

"Microsoft staff, who disguise themselves as individual clients, ask us to have Windows 98 copied on PCs they pretend to buy," Lee told Agence France Presse.

"If you agree to do so, Bingo. You're trapped," he said, adding that Microsoft usually demanded $12,245 for an out-of-court settlement for a case of piracy in Yongsan.

Retailers, who have to buy from a Microsoft's sales agent in Korea, pay $126 for a copy of Windows 98, twice as high as large South Korean PC makers pay when they buy directly from Microsoft, he said.

Supply prices for Windows 98 for the retailers here are also extraordinarily high when compared with those charged for their partners in other Asian countries including Japan, China and Taiwan, Lee said.

But Microsoft here denied it was discriminating against small retailers.

Observers here said the retailers have been losing their competitive edge against local competitors such as Samsung, Sambo and Sejin because of crackdowns by Microsoft on piracy.

Hankyoreh Daily said the current dispute stemmed from years of friction between Microsoft and Yongsan retailers over piracy.

"Price variations depend on packing sizes. It depends on what kind of packs you buy. If you buy large packs, the unit price is lower," Lee Geun, managing director of Microsoft Korea, said.

"The retailers in Yongsan even don't buy packs which contain 50 copies each," he said.

Last year alone, South Koreans bought 1.4 million PCs and retailers sold an somewhere between 70,000 and 100,000 units.

"But the number of OS [Operating System] they bought from us was less than one tenth of the PCs they sold," Lee said, hinting that the retailers were relying on piracy.

No 'Baby bills'? GATES, DOJ MAY SETTLE

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON (Die Welt) — The antitrust case against US software giant Microsoft has taken an unexpected turn. The world's largest producer of computer software and the US Justice Department are soon to start negotiations about an out-of-court settlement. If both sides reach a favorable settlement about future business practices, the increasing threat of splitting up the Microsoft group into "Baby Bills" would thus be avoided.

If the move succeeds, it would mean the most spectacular monopoly case ever in American history would have been resolved at the negotiating table. It would follow on from a settlement reached by Intel, the US chip manufacturer, which reached an agreement with the US Federal Trade Commission a day before antitrust proceedings were due to commence.

The case brought against Microsoft by the United States government and 19 federal states, accusing Bill Gate's company of taking excessive advantage of its market position, is currenty adjourned. Both the prosecution and defense finished cross-examining 12 witnesses at the end of February this year. Operating systems from Microsoft are installed on 90 per cent of computers around the world.

The Microsoft lawsuit began on October 19 last year and so far there have been 62 days of proceedings. The case is supposed to restart in Washington on April 12, although recent developments may mean that this date be postponed or may even become superfluous. Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson had repeatedly urged both parties to use the break in proceedings to discuss a mutually acceptable settlement.

At present Microsoft's top management and legal team in Seattle are drawing up their settlement proposal. It was apparently Gates himself who took the initiative and turned his ship around, setting course for a settlement rather than an out-and-out battle.

"We are reconsidering our position," explained a spokesman at the company. Microsoft is apparently also willing to relax exclusive contracts with Internet service providers.

In addition, computer manufacturers will be given more freedom to choose which software they pre-install on their products. There is no intention of splitting up Windows and its Internet browser software, Explorer, however. This is one of the prosecution's biggest headaches, the fact that Microsoft automatically signs up Internet users with every piece of Windows operating system software it sells.

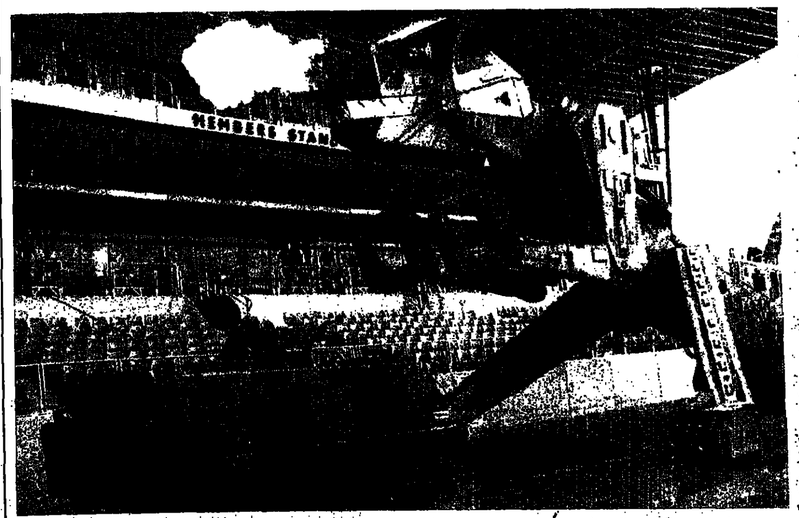
There has been no firm date set for negotiations between Microsoft and the government. "We still haven't received a proposal for a settlement," said Joel Klein, head of the antitrust department at the Justice Department. His department has always been willing to reach an agreement with Microsoft, as long as the interests of the consumer are protected, and that a repetition of such business practices are ruled out in the future.

The Justice Department expects Microsoft to make the first move, as the software company had come under increasing pressure to do just this during the last few days of the proceedings. According to many observers, the prosecution had gained the upper hand once the trial adjourned.

There were also attempts to reach an out-of-court settlement with Microsoft in May 1998 before legal proceedings started. However, meetings between the company and government were called off after they failed to produce results.

According to the government, Microsoft just wanted to collect PR points in public. But as soon as they went back to the negotiating table the company refused to budge an inch. Microsoft disputes this description of events.

ROBOSAURUS!!!



Robosaurus (right), described as "the world's only car-nivorous monster," confronts an Australian Army armoured carrier (left) during a rehearsal for the upcoming Royal Easter Show at the Sydney 2000 Olympic site Wednesday. The 27-ton hi-tech hydraulic robot built in the US stands seven metres high and is operated by a pilot who sits in the head — AP photo

SPORTS WATCH

UEFA postpones Two matches because of threatened NATO air strikes

NYON, SWITZERLAND (AP) — With the threat of NATO air strikes looming against Serb-led Yugoslavia, Europe's soccer governing body UEFA decided Wednesday to postpone two upcoming European 2000 qualifying matches.

UEFA said the Yugoslavia vs. Croatia match scheduled for Saturday in Belgrade would be played Aug. 18. A match set for March 31 between Macedonia and Yugoslavia was put off until Sept. 4.

A decision on the fate of a third match Saturday's game in Macedonia against Ireland had not been made, UEFA said.

Owen among four players ruled out of Euro 2000 game

LONDON (AP) — Strikers Michael Owen, Robbie Fowler and Chris Sutton and winger Darren Anderton have all been ruled out of England's team for Saturday's crucial Euro 2000 qualifying game against Poland.

Coming on top of the withdrawals of David Batty and Andy Hinchcliffe on Monday, the injury crisis means that coach Kevin Keegan has only 16 fit outfield players and only two all-out strikers, Alan Shearer and Andy Cole.

Keegan, who is coaching England on a part-time basis for the next four games while he also runs division two Fulham, may have to call up replacements, such as Tottenham's experienced striker Les Ferdinand.

Owen, Fowler, Sutton and Anderton have been unable to train this week because of injuries and two goalkeepers. David Seaman and Nigel Martyn, also have sat out some sessions to avoid aggravating problems.

The game is virtually a must-win for England, which is two points behind Poland and Sweden in the Group 5 standings and has played one game more.

Yankees to dedicate DiMaggio monument

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) — The New York Yankees will honor the late Joe DiMaggio by erecting the fifth monument at Yankee Stadium and will dedicate it on April 25 prior to a game against Toronto.

DiMaggio, who died on March 8, already has been honored with a plaque at the U.S. Major League Baseball stadium, dedicated to him by Mickey Mantle on June 8, 1969.

The Yankees have monuments to manager Miller Huggins (dedicated May 30, 1932), Lou Gehrig (July 4, 1941), Babe Ruth (April 19, 1949) and Mantle (Aug. 24, 1996). All monuments have been dedicated following the death of the men they honor.

World Figure Skating Results

HELSINKI (AP) — Results Wednesday of the World Figure Skating Championships at Hartwall Arena:

Women

Group A

1. Michelle Kwan, United States, .4 factored placings.
2. Vanessa Gusmeroli, France, .8
3. Viktoria Volchkova, Russia, 1.2
4. Sarah Hughes, United States, 1.6
5. Anna Rechnio, Poland, 2.0
6. Diana Poth, Hungary, 2.4
7. Eva-Maria Fitze, Germany, 2.8
8. Yulia Lavrenchuk, Ukraine, 3.2
9. Lucinda Ruh, Switzerland, 3.6
10. Marta Andrade, Spain, 4.0
11. Valeria Trifancova, Latvia, 4.4
12. Idora Hegel, Croatia, 4.8
13. Olga Vassiljeva, Estonia, 5.2
14. Julia Sebestyen, Hungary, 5.6
15. Lu Meijia, China, 6.0

NBA ROUNDUP

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) —Bryon Russell's 3-pointer with 4.7 seconds to play gave the Utah Jazz an 84-81 win over the Miami Heat on Tuesday night. The Jazz erased an eight-point fourth-quarter deficit to win at home for the 24th time in their last 25 games.

Miami won most of the physical battles in an intense, hard-pounding game, but the Heat wilted in front of a deafening Delta Center crowd and a Jazz defense that played best when it counted the most. The Heat had just three points in the game's final 4:12..

Tim Hardaway had 30 points for the Heat and Alonzo Mourning added 11 points and 13 rebounds. Utah, which lost its two previous games in overtime on the road, avoided losing three straight for the first time since January 1997.

Raptors 113, Bulls 90

In Chicago, Dee Brown hit seven 3-pointers and scored a season-high 25 points as the Toronto Raptors won at Chicago for the first time ever. The Raptors, who had lost their previous six games at Chicago, led 31-9 after the first quarter. Toronto went on to win for the sixth time in seven games overall.

The Bulls made just 2 of 20 shots in the first quarter. Toronto reeled off a 23-3 run in the final 6:04 of the period.

Vince Carter led the Raptors with 23 points and 11 rebounds. Bulls star Toni Kukoc left the game midway through the second quarter because of a lower back strain.

Spurs 112, Nuggets 82

In San Antonio, David Robinson broke out of his scoring slump with 17 points and Tim Duncan had 19 as the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Denver Nuggets.

Robinson, who had not managed more than 10 points in any of his previous three games, shot 7-for-10 from the field and also had nine rebounds in 28 points.

Nick Van Exel led the Nuggets with 18 points and Johnny Taylor and Eric Williams had 14 each for Denver.

Cavaliers 113, Celtics 86

In Cleveland, Wesley Person scored 19 points and Shawn Kemp scored six straight during a 10-0 Cleveland run in the third quarter to power the Cavaliers past the Boston Celtics.

Kemp had 13 points, seven rebounds and two assists in the third quarter as Cleveland used a 19-4 run to regain command in response to a 14-4 Boston spurt to open the second half. Antoine Walker led Boston with 22 points.

Magic 86, Hornets 78

In Orlando, Florida, Darrell Armstrong came off the bench to score a career-high 28 points as Orlando stopped Charlotte's three-game winning streak.

The Magic pulled away in the closing minutes, getting a big 3-pointer from Penny Hardaway during a 14-6 spurt that put the game out of reach.

Armstrong made eight of 14 shots from the field and was a career-best 11-for-11 from the foul line in 28 minutes. Rookie Matt Harpring had season highs for points (16), rebounds (9) and assists (4), and Hardaway finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Karl Malone (L) of the Utah Jazz is fouled by Clarence Weatherspoon (R) of the Miami Heat in Salt Lake City 23 March 1999. Utah defeated Miami 84-81.

Eddie Jones led the Hornets with 20 points, 18 of them in the second half. Elden Campbell had 19 points and 11 rebounds, while Derrick Coleman contributed 11 points and 16 rebounds.

Trail Blazers 79, Warriors 72

In Portland, Oregon, Isaiah Rider scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half as the Portland Trail Blazers held off the Golden State Warriors.

The Warriors, who were led by Jason Caffey's 18 points and 11 rebounds, rallied to cut the Blazers' lead to 74-72 with 3:17 left in the game.

But Golden State missed its last five shots while Rider and Wallace each made a pair of free throws for the win.

Arvydas Sabonis had 14 rebounds and 11 points. Brian Grant added 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, who have won 12 of 13 at home.

KRAJICEK BEATS SAMPRAS AGAIN

KEY BISCAYNE (AP) — Give Pete Sampras an asterisk when he returns to No. 1, because against Dutchman Richard Krajicek, the American star still ranks No. 2.

Sampras headed home Tuesday assured of the top ranking despite another loss to Krajicek, who won their quarterfinal slugfest in the Lipton Championships 6-2, 7-6 (8-6).

The victory was Krajicek's fourth in a row against Sampras. The big Dutchman, the last player to beat Sampras at Wimbledon, holds a 6-2 advantage in their rivalry.

Just as convincing as that margin was Krajicek's latest victory. He overpowered Sampras with his serve, controlled the net and even showed more finesse, winning one key point with a running backhand lob that landed in the corner of the court.

"He's got my number for the time being," Sampras said. "He seems to be very confident against me. He just comes out swinging away."

Sampras will reclaim the No. 1 ranking Monday from Spain's Carlos Moya, whose two-week reign ends because of a fourth-round loss.

Belarus' Natasha Zvereva 6-2, 6-4. Kournikova lost to Austria's Barbara Schett 6-1, 1-6, 6-1. Pierce retired with a sprained ankle Krajicek, who reached the Lipton semifinal for the first time, is the only remaining player ranked in the top 14. His opponent in the semifinals Thursday will be 15th-ranked Thomas Enqvist of Sweden, a 6-3, 7-5 winner over France's Jerome Golmard.

"Rankings-wise it looks like the best guys aren't playing," Krajicek said. "But the guys left are really playing well."

Krajicek, 27, is ranked No. 7 and rising after undergoing knee surgery last November. Sampras said the nine-year tour veteran could yet challenge for No. 1.

"He has the tools, but tools can only take you so far," Sampras said; "It's just a matter of if he has the heart and the mind to be the best player in the world."

MEMBER CHARGES BAQA'A CLUB WITH FRAUD

MINISTER OF YOUTH and Sports Mohammad Kheir Mamser paid a visit to Al-Baqa'a Club in order to inspect its facilities and equipment and to address the concerns of club members. During the visit, a member brought alleged cases of fraud from within the club administration to the Minister's attention.

Khaled Arar, told the minister that "We have upcoming administrative elections. The General Assembly is 6000 strong, but there has been noncompliance with club regulations. For example, 859 new names were unlawfully added to the General Assembly list. We have filed a complaint with you [the minister], and hope that you form a committee to look into this."

The minister answered "clubs are democratic institutions and we see to it that they abide by the laws and do not tolerate disregard for these laws. I hope that you withdraw the word 'forgery', I do not want you to accuse anyone of this. I promise you here and how that we will look into this. We will not allow clubs to be politicized. Whoever wants politics should join political parties, because that is what they are for."

Arar told The Arab Daily "the major problem is forgery on the General Assembly list, and this forgery comes in four ways:

First, registration and payment of fees were performed for massive number of absentee members, and the former ministry knew nothing of it. The second issue concerns double membership. The club regulations do not forbid it, although the Ministry requires that all members must sign a declaration that they are not members of another club. Thirdly, there are members who are also employees of the military and police force, something which is forbidden by law. Lastly, 859 new members were added to the list by the administrative committee after the registration period ended, and I have proof of this. We contacted the Baqa'a Youth Director Jamal Khreisat to stop the committee from doing so, but his promises were not upheld, and the names were added anyway."

The Minister told The Arab Daily "concerning the upcoming elections, some members have presented to us complaints that there is illegal activity in the club. We are now looking into this with the administrative council, and we will go over the records and explore the matters of membership controversies and double membership and the addition of a large number of members in a very short period of time. The Secretary General [Thoukhan Obeidat] and I will personally follow up on this, and we will not allow the elections to take place until all these problems are solved.

"We will not allow clubs to be politicized, and politics are for political parties. We will also not accept anyone being accused of forgery. Anyone who throws accusations around without proof will be punished, and if there were any suspicions the evidence will be thoroughly examined by the judicial authorities and not by the ministry. I do not believe there exists such a problem, it is only a matter of differences."

Club head Adnan Asmar denied there was any such fraud. "there is no forgery at all," he told The Arab Daily. "But I support the formation of a committee by the Ministry to check the lists thoroughly. My administrative committee is being accused, and I leave the issue in the hands of any committee being formed by the Ministry." He also said that he did not know of any members who are in the military.

When asked by The Arab Daily about the complaint that was filed, Asmar played it down saying, "they are only a group of objections presented to the ministry, and we are waiting for its legal, administrative and organizational opinions. We will totally abide by the instructions of the Ministry and implement the points of the fundamental system."

by SHADY JANZEIR

VENUS, SERENA CLOSE IN ON FAMILY-FEUD FINAL

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — At the moment, Serena Williams might be the best player in women's tennis. On the other hand, she might not even be the best player in her family.

Perhaps we'll find out Sunday.

With fourth-round victories Tuesday, Serena and sister Venus moved a step closer to a sibling showdown in the final in the Lipton Championships.

Serena won her 14th match in a row, beating Monica Seles 6-2, 6-3. Venus edged Anke Huber 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (7-4).

The Williams sisters are best friends, doubles partners and even business associates - they recently started a tennis newsletter. So which of them would win a family-feud final?

"If we both get there, you'll have to see," said Serena, 17. "Venus is playing awesome..I'm playing good."

"It will be super if it could happen," said Venus, 18. "We're looking forward to it."

Their dad prefers to avoid such showdowns, so the sisters have rarely entered the same tournament in recent months. They last met in the Italian Open in May 1998, and their only other matchup came in the Australian Open last year. Venus won each time in straight sets.

But Serena is much improved lately, earning her first tournament title in the Gaz de France Open at Paris on Feb. 28. Hours later, Venus won the Oklahoma City final, making the Williamses the first sisters to win WTA Tour events on the same day.

Serena also won the Indian Wells title March 13. At Key Biscayne, she has lost just 16 games in four matches and has yet to lose her serve.

The path to the final won't be easy for either sister. Also advancing Tuesday were top-ranked Martina Hingis, No. 2 Lindsay Davenport, No. 4 Jana Novotna and five-time Lipton champion Steffi Graf.

Anna Kournikova and Mary Pierce were eliminated. Kournikova lost to Barbara Schett 6-1, 1-6, 6-1, and Pierce retired with a sprained ankle while trailing Amanda Coetzer 6-1, 4-2.

Serena plays Coetzer in the quarterfinals tonight, and Venus faces Novotna on Thursday.

The Williams sisters need a few more titles to take over No. 1 - Venus is ranked sixth and Serena 16th. But both expect to get there eventually.

Serena is shorter than her sister, but more muscular and athletic. Venus has a longer reach, a bigger serve and an edge in experience, winning Lipton last year and reaching the final of the U.S. Open in 1997.

Serena Williams of the US hits the ball to Monica Seles of the US during their fourth round match at the Lipton WTA Tennis Championships in Key Biscayne 23 March 1999. Williams upset Seles 6-2, 6-3.

"We're both powerful, but we're also consistent," Serena said. "We both can run fast and also have a lot of touch. We're setting the standard for the future generation. Tennis is always going to take a step up now that we've come along. That's good for the game."

So, to repeat the original question, who will win if they play each other? Serena arched her eyebrows at the suggestion that the older sibling always has an edge.

"Oh really?" she said. "I never was aware of that. That's just something in a book. You can't always trust that."

SPORTS

Mamser receives UNFPA representative

THE ARAB DAILY — Minister of Youth and Sports Mohammad Kheir Mamser received the representative the United Nations Fund for Population Activities Ugur Tunger on Tuesday.

They discussed cooperation, particularly concerning youth activities. Deliberations tackled consolidating financial and technical support provided by UNFPA. The Ministry aims at utilizing this support in youth activities in order to implement a national strategy for youth, and to increase cooperation with youth centers in aspects of health and prenatal care.

The meeting was attended by Secretary General of the Ministry Thoukhan Obeidat, Director of Youth Affairs in the Ministry Mahmoud Qattam and Lina Obeidat from the Fund.

Ministry of Sports receives equipment from China

THE ARAB DAILY — The Ministry of Sports received equipment for table tennis, which was donated by the General Sports Directorate of The People's Republic of China on Tuesday.

Minister of Youth and Sports, Mohammed Kheir Mamser received the Chinese ambassador Leo Pao Li on Wednesday. The minister expressed appreciation for the Chinese initiative and he and Pao Li explored possible ways of activating the already signed sports agreement between the two countries.

The ambassador commended Jordan's achievements in various fields under the reign of the late King Hussein and wished Jordan further prosperity under King Abdullah.

Jordanian equestrians participate in Syrian tournament

THE ARAB DAILY — Several Jordanians advanced to the final round of the Basel Assad International Equatation Tournament, which concluded Tuesday in Damascus.

The three day competition, sponsored by Arab Equatation Federation, included equestrians from the Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria and Sweden.

Jordan's equestrians Fares Taher, Ibrahim Bisharat, Maysam Bisharat, Hani Bisharat, Mona Suktian and Hussam Bahou made it to the final rounds.

Shu'eil Kawari, President of the Federation said that the Federation does not frequently organize equatation competitions since Arab participation in such events is very limited.

He elaborated that the transfer costs of horses are very high, so many Arab countries prefer not to participate.

Kawari urged Arab countries to participate in the 9th Pan Arab Games equatation competitions. He added that the Federation is cooperating with the Games' organization committee to guarantee the success of the competitions.

He also praised the Arab Federation initiative in organizing a training course for equatation referees, saying that such courses are aimed at upgrading the performance of Arab referees to meet international standards.

Kawari announced that another such competition will be held next October in Syria.

Jordan Badminton Federation meets

THE ARAB DAILY — The Jordan Badminton Federation held it's weekly meeting Wednesday.

The meeting was headed by Sana'a Nabulsi and the following decision were made:

* A congratulatory cable will be sent to Queen Rania for her ascension to the throne
* A training camp will be organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in cooperation with the Syrian team
* A study will be conducted on the possibility of organizing badminton competitions in various Governorates
* The technical by laws created by the technical committee of the 9th Pan Arab games will be reviewed
* The Federation will request of the Central Refereeing Committee the organization of training courses in order to prepare referees for the Games

Art & Culture

Darat Al Funun opens its new season with

MEETING POINT AMMAN

A TASTE OF SWEDISH ABSTRACT ART

NELLY LAMA
Art & Culture editor

I join the Arab Daily staff to wish our readers a happy Eid. On this occasion I chose for you the exotic subject of the Madrassa of Dar As-Salam in Iraq with its exquisite Arab Islamic decorations.

Now that the period of mourning on our beloved King Hussein has passed, Darat al Funun, a prime location for art in the country, has opened its artistic season with an exhibition of two Swedish artists. Viewers might find the paintings and graphics hard to understand at first sight. But understanding the philosophy of the artists can help one gain a new vision, a new way of looking and deciphering the 'concept' that the artist came up with. *As I said before, take your Arab Daily with you to the exhibition, and see if this article makes sense!*

Darat al Funun has opened wide its doors to welcome two Swedish artists, Håkan Rehnberg and Ann Edholm, great supporters of abstraction.

Both artists fight to reach an absolute state of abstraction, one using a private vocabulary of forms, the other studying the physical reaction of the eye as it faces the work of art; yet both reach out to life experience which finally adds some lyricism to their work.

Ali Maher, Director of Darat al Funun, travelled two years ago to Sweden to visit the Svenska Institute and the Modern Museum of Stockholm in order to prepare for this exchange of exhibitions between Sweden and Jordan. This exchange is part of the Modern Museum International Program that covers many countries. It is interesting to hear the reaction of Ali Maher to this trip. "I was deeply impressed by the professionalism that the Svenska Institute and the Modern Art Museum displayed in preparing such a rich and meticulous schedule for me. I was particularly impressed by the gracious modesty exhibited by artists of such high caliber, a quality that eased the way for a free and constructive dialogue."

Accompanying the artists to Amman were David Elliott, Director of the Modern Museum of Fine Arts in Stockholm, Svenrobert Lundquist, Director of the Kunsthalle in Gothenburg and *Professor Tom Sandqvist, art critic.*

Although intrinsically different, the two artists have a lot in common. Both are purists, who put abstract forms into a large empty space that many artists in the Middle East would have filled, if for no other reason than the 'horror vacui' or fear of empty space that has been handed down to them from both their Byzantine and Muslim forefathers. It is a breath of fresh air to see pure clean open space for a change and to see crisp shapes, modest and subtle yet carrying a lot of hidden meaning.

The first artist, Ann Edholm, is professor of painting at the University College of Fine Arts in Stockholm. Her graphic works combine black and white geometric motifs that stand in great stillness within a clear format.

"I wanted to deal with pure abstraction, then I questioned it," she explained, "It dealt with lots of negatives like 'A work of art should have no psychology, no narrative, etc.' But in my work, one might see a black rectangle on a big white canvas as a shape in space, or as a door. I leave it completely up to the viewer."

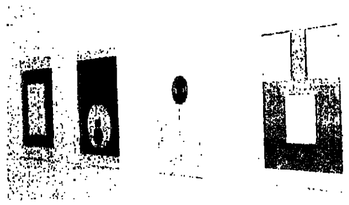
Ann mentioned that she was working on Matthias Grünewald's altarpiece from the *German Renaissance.* "I saw in it a human sacrifice," she said "a big story, part history, part fairy tale. It played a role in our upbringing and had an effect on us. Now you can see its influence on my work. Fourteen sta*tions of the cross, and fourteen* conceptions."

Ann wanted to convey much in her works but couldn't, as she is an avid defendant of abstraction. "In the past I did a lot of physical drawings, but hid *them behind a layer of paint,* a skin. Now I work to get rid of a lot of nos."

As critic Helena Mattsson put it, Ann Edholm's work "is a constructivism with its roots in the tradition of art history. It is unified with a contemporary graphic symbol taken directly from popular culture."

Ann's work is a number of 'iconographic' prints, dealing mostly with primary shapes such as black circles and rectangles hanging in space, immobilized, always reminding one of potential movement. Red appears at rare instances, making a personal statement among the pulsating rhythms of black *shapes standing side by side as* if in a row. Are they houses? One might ask.

One day, in order to draw a circle, Ann carried a thread with a ball. She was tantalized by the



pendulum effect, and painted it.

A horizontal line on top *drops vertical lines downwards.* These carry two black balls that touch the lower edge of the paper. This touching, as Mondrian and Kandinsky stressed, gives them a sense of stability, whereas the upper line does not touch the edges and so is floating in space. A fragile balance is created.

The viewer, seeing the two hanging circles, has the impression that if they are let loose, they would hit each other and clash. Is that not telling about life?

The other artist Håkan (pronounced Hokan) Rehnberg, starts with a translucent acrylic sheet instead of a canvas, opening up flat space to new freedom and dimension even before receiving his stamp. The artist, now master of this space, is sensitive to the fact that it exists, that it has its own dimension; he allows the forms *that he paints on to float,* covering only portions of it and allowing it to be ever present in his composition. It is a question of 'to be or not to be' of shapes and space.

What he tries to reflect here *is a state of consciousness, the* actual physical 'act' of seeing. He raises his paintings to slightly above eye-level to enable the eye to interact directly with it.

Håkan does not attempt to mix into his color scheme any shades or tones, but sweeps flat *layers of color on the acrylic* surface. The sheet being smooth, allows every accidental to appear clearly, the rippling, hit and miss effects, or palette knife sweeps, Håkan uses them all.

In one of his works, a brown block rendered in a hit and miss effect stands imposingly on the upper part of a translucent space. Thick patches within this block lead you into a new world sprinkled with dots allowing you to enter into the depths.

Below the block, in the remaining space, a dense, intense yellow block stands alienated on the edge of the acrylic format. Seeming threatened by the angular projection of the brown shape, it uses its intensity to come forward, as if to flee from the threat.

It is this dialogue of shapes that Håkan Rehnberg stresses in his work.

Håkan reaches to the extremity of his concept when he covers a yellow rectangle with an aluminum sheet, a process he calls inversion. He studies the effect of this blockage on the eye of the beholder. One seems to look at one side, picking up the yellow edges and naturally seeking the continuation of the yellow on the other side. Håkan sees this process of turning the eye around the work as behaving as if it is a sculpture in the round. It is this philosophy of seeing that is at the base of his concept. Håkan is an astute reader of Greek literature and philosophy.

Holes in the sheet metal allow the viewer to peek in. The space between the two sheets allows just enough light to come in to let the yellow hue reappear with soft shadows and a slight interaction between the blueness of the metal and the yellow of the base; sensitivity in miniature form.

Older works deal with the same problem in a more aggressive way. Three yellow paintings (from a series of five) are called 'Herodiates' after a poem by Stéphane Malarmé stand side by side, raised above eye level. The theme of Herodias, wife of King Herod, requesting the head of John the Baptist is here enacted by the ability of paint to admit the eye or repel it, and by twirling it into a whirlwind where one loses his head!

In the first one, The paint, applied crudely with a palette knife, swells up into forbidding violent hatching (crisscross effect) reminiscent of a prison. *Only the edges of the black surface,* underneath appear. According to Håkan "to paint is to establish a surface that is spread out, where material is transformed into a work of art. I always stop when I say to *myself now there is a surface,* there is a presence in the work."

The next rectangle has a dense, flat front that is totally forbidding, sending the eye off like a ping pong ball.

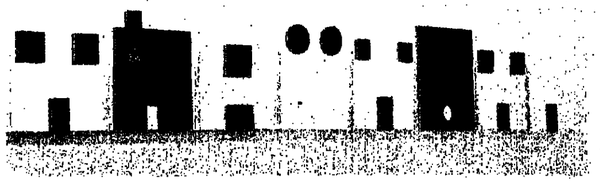
The third offers an exotic atmospheric space rendered with a tumultuous combination of brushstrokes, eerily reminiscent of the works of French artist Gustave Moreau. The viewer is slowly led up to a circular area where a whirlwind of color spirals into the depth of oblivion, leading him on to lose his head, remember Herodias!

The work is iconographic, if only in composition, for the circle lies just above center as in the coda of the Middle Ages.

Håkan's latest work, now exhibited in a museum in South Sweden, is a monumental 'box' made of aluminum, glass and steel sheets, called *The Sealed*

Studio. It is 3 metres high, not large enough to be architecture, but too large to be a sculpture. It explains his theory of admission and omission of vision clearly. A glass sheet stops the person from entering the form *while his eye* has access to the interior. It is an analogy of the body and soul. The space left open below casts shadows creating a new reality. Håkan again dives into the realm of spirituality. You can hear the artists talk about their work today Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. at the Darat.

by NELLY LAMA
Art & Culture Editor



Art & Culture

Did You Know?

Did you know that Europeans of the 17th century found what *they called* 'an arsenal of gunpowder' in the desert near Baghdad, but it turned out to be a magnificent Madrassa (school where Islam is taught) built in Madinet as-Salam, the political, cultural and religious centre of the Abbasid Empire.

In 762, the Caliph Al Mansur, abandoned Koufa and established *his residence in* Madinet as-Salam (City of Peace), then a little village, on the border of the Tigris near Baghdad. Sitting in a fertile, well irrigated plain, this new location was very strategic, for it stood on the caravan route beside the capital of the Parthians, Ctesiphon, the Kassite ziggurat of Agarkouf, the site of Tell Harmal, some 10 kilometres north of ancient Babylon.

The new capital was built in four years on a circular plan centred around the Caliph's palace and the principal mosque. Madinet as-Salam became the political, cultural and religious centre of the Abbasid Empire. It quickly extended to the other bank of the river and reached its apogee in the 10th century, after which it declined.

In the 9th century, the historian Yaqoubi considered it as 'the greatest city, unequalled in the East and West of the earth, because of its vastness, importance, prosperity, abundance of its water resources, and temperate climate.'

In the 10th century, the geographer al Muqaddasi wrote " know that Baghdad, that was magnificent *in the past, now falls to* ruin, lives in anxiety, its splendour has fled."

In 1184 Ibn Djobair echoes its decadence "This antique city is still the residence of the Abassid Caliphate, but the greater part of its edifices has disappeared, now it bears nothing but its name." A tragic destiny to a city that was based on peace, but knew none other than civil wars, foreign invasions, flooding and fires.

The Mongol troops of Houlago entered Baghdad in February 1258, after one month of siege. They massacred the people and the last Caliph Al-Mu'tasem, leaving most of the capital in ruin.

Dominated by the Mongol Ilkhanids till 1340, it was subjected twice to Tamerlane's passage, then fell to the Turcomans, Persians *and finally to the Ottoman Turks.*

Nothing remains of the round city of Al Mansur, so often evoked by Arab writers, except few vestiges of the Abassid era (1200-1258).

European travellers such as Carsten Niebuhr, who travelled on the banks of the Tigris during the Ottoman period in the *17th century, spoke of a citadel called Yts* Kalla that was used as an arsenal to store gunpowder cartouches. At the beginning of the 20th century French archaeologist M.H.Viollet discovered within the citadel, remnants of a much more ancient building. He talked of an Iwan (open court), richly decorated with stucco and brick, that the town *people believed was part of a palace of the* first Caliphs.

In 1934, salvage works exposed what they still call the palace of the Caliph, but which, according to its plan, is no other than a Madrassa, a Quranic school.

This school teaches Sunni orthodoxy, it made its first appearance under the rule of *the Turkish Seldjuks, in the first half of the* 11th century, as a reaction to the propaganda of the Shiite Egyptian Fatimids. The Madrassas multiplied, no less than thirty were counted by Ibn Djobair in 1184, on the bank of the river.

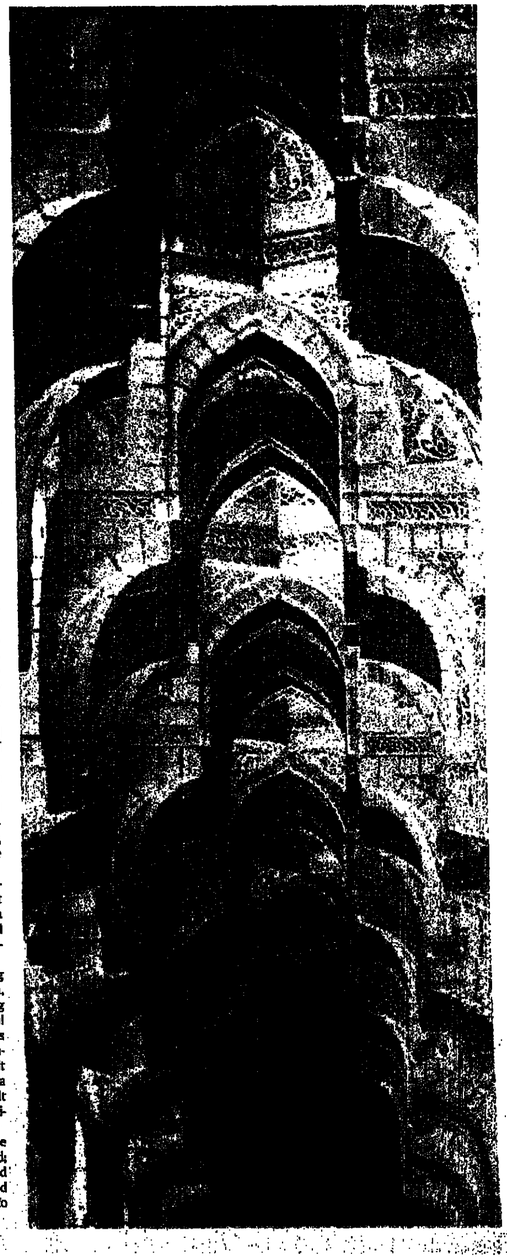
The traveller, Ibn Battuta visited Baghdad in June, 1327, and wrote a description of *what takes place within the walls.*

"The lesson of the professor takes place under a little wooden cupola, on a carpet. The professor sits and exhibits calm and restraint. He wears black cloths and a turban. Two 'repeaters' stand one to his right, the other to his left, repeating all what he dictates."

The madrassas consists of four two-storey buildings surrounding a square court of 20 metres. The hall of prayer and the Iwan are surrounded by a number of cells and communal halls, with a barrel-vaulted walkway that protects residents from the sun.

On the west side of the building facing the river, we find a high rectangular porch, towering over the building and advancing far beyond the facade. This monumental gateway is flanked by two horizontal bands that give solidity to the structure. The monumental porch is not authentic, it was built by the department of antiquities following a model of the Madrassa Moustansiriya built in 1233 which is reminiscent of Iranian architecture.

All architectural elements except for the smooth horizontal bands are decorated; piers, voussoirs and tympana are rendered in ornate geometric or floral motifs, carved into the surface of the bricks. A sight to remember!



BORN TODAY THURSDAY

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1999
By Stella Wilder

Born today, you do things in your own unique manner, even when you are working closely with others. Your influence is sure to be felt at all times, no matter what you or those around you may be doing. You have a strong personality, with a forceful, outgoing and quite an independent presence. Highly expressive and free with your emotions, you never hold back when you are given an opportunity to share your feelings with others. You know how to speak well, and you can be quite persuasive when you choose to be, but your greatest strength may be non-verbal communication. Anything that gives you a direct track to someone else's feelings is for you!

You are physically adept and psychologically equipped to take even the most brutal punishment in the name of progress. However, you would like things to calm down at home. You are never one to "fight it out" on the homefront, and you want your relationships with family and loved ones to be harmonious.

Also born on this date are: Arturo Toscanini, *conductor*; Bela Bartok, composer; David Lean, director; Howard Cosell, sportscaster; Gloria Steinem, feminist; Aretha Franklin, singer; Elton John, singer-pianist.

BORN TODAY FRIDAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1999
By Stella Wilder

Born today, you know how to bring a great deal of fun and celebration into the lives of others, but there are many times when you do not treat yourself as well as you treat those around you, and this is something you must work on if you are to enjoy your own successes in life. Despite the fact that you are immensely talented and able to do many things at once with great facility, you often miss out quite on the enjoyment that your successes can bring, simply because you are so concerned with moving forward. You are afraid that if you stand still long enough to "smell the flowers," opportunity will pass you right by!

You go at things with more gusto than most other individuals, and though your creativity may be relatively limited, you have a way of seeing things in a unique way. However, this might not always be an advantage. You enjoy learning from those around you, but experience is your best teacher.

Also born on this date are: Robert Frost, poet; Tennessee Williams, playwright; Sandra Day O'Connor, U.S. Supreme Court justice; Leonard Nimoy, actor; Erica Jong, writer; Bob Woodward, journalist; Diana Ross, singer-actress; Marcus Allen, football player.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES
(March 21-April19):
THURSDAY
It makes no sense for you to be singing the blues about something that you can easily control if you set your mind to it. Don't be a "victim."
FRIDAY
Take care that you're not trying to manufacture other people's *responses to your affairs today.* Stick to the rules at all times.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20):
THURSDAY
You can combine intellect and passion today and come up with results that surprise even those who are supporting you.
FRIDAY
There's no room for teasing of any kind today. Someone close to you is in need of positive sup*port, and he or she doesn't* need any insincerity.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 21):
THURSDAY
You can do things in a manner that lures a great deal of positive attention today, or you can *remain in the background. You* know your place.
FRIDAY
You must direct your anger today at those who have deserved it in the past, not to *those you fear will offend you in* the future.

CANCER
(June 22-July 22):
THURSDAY
You can familiarize yourself with the strange and unusual with surprising ease today, provided you keep an open mind.
FRIDAY
Your connection with someone who is more established will surely enable you to advance *yourself with greater ease* today. Don't be too cocky!

LEO
(July 23-Aug.22)
THURSDAY
You may be feeling a bit under the weather today, but you'll have to put it behind you if *you wish to stay on schedule* at this time.
FRIDAY
An unpleasant interruption at just the "wrong time" today is likely to teach you an impor*tant lesson. Once over the* line, you can't go back!

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):
THURSDAY
You may find yourself in a more dangerous position today than expected, but you are better equipped than any*one else. Have confidence,* you can deal with it!
FRIDAY
Competition is likely to be tough today, but your experience will serve you well. You have every reason to remain confident, optimistic and energized!

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 23):
THURSDAY
You must be willing to do things for others today, just as you expect them to do for you. It's only through an equal trade that it will pay off for you at all.
FRIDAY
Invest a little more time and money at this time and the results will please you and your critics. Rewards are sure to be forthcoming.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
THURSDAY
You'll get the green light today, and you'll want to start as soon as possible. A new plan of action will result in you receiving much attention.
FRIDAY
The time has come for you to aim yourself for the challenge that is just around the corner. Any further delays can prove disastrous for you.

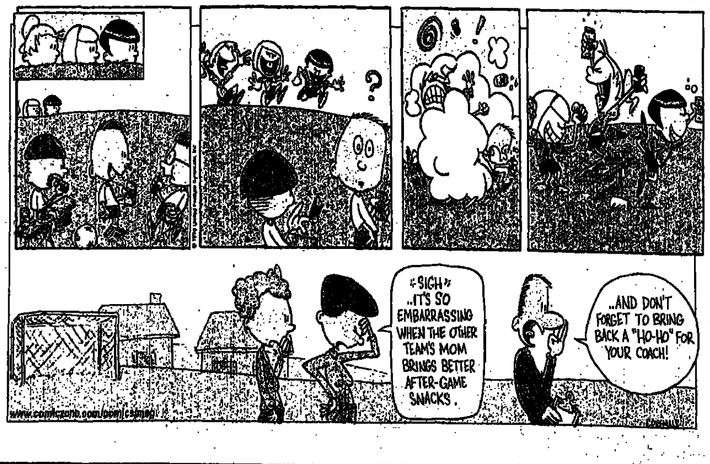
SAGITTARIUS
(Nov.22-Dec. 21):
THURSDAY
Be more conscious of personal security today. It's not so much that danger is imminent, but you can bring it on yourself if you're not careful.
FRIDAY
They say that you "can't go home again," but you may be able to make some overdue repairs on a key relationship today. Take that first step!

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):
THURSDAY
Don't be tentative today. After all that you've done during the past week, can you afford to risk it all now by being indecisive or noncommittal?
FRIDAY
You can put in quite a show today, but you must be sure that you're being true to yourself, even when indulging in the melodramatic.

AQUARIUS
(Jan 20-Feb. 18):
THURSDAY
Someone close to you is likely to ask you the "key question" quite unexpectedly today. Your initial response will tell the tale.
FRIDAY
You can recognize the problem with ease today, and solve it permanently with only a modicum of effort. Otherwise, you can avoid the whole thing and suffer!

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March20):
THURSDAY
Sure, you've been talking about taking that vacation with a good friend for some time, but when is it going to happen? Make firm plans today!
FRIDAY
You may have more to sing about today than others can glean. It would be wise to keep your little secret for a *while longer.*

MEG — BY GREG CURFMAN



Ripley's Believe It or Not!

DANCE WITH ME
3:30/6:30/8:30/10:30
GALLERIA 1

A PERFECT MURDER
6:30/8:30/10:45
GALLERIA 2

GALLERIA
PHONE 5934793

SCRABBLE® BRAND — G2 R1 A1 M3 S1

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H4	A1	A1	P3	L1	N1	I1	RACK 1
Z10	D2	blank	I1	E1	L1	R1	RACK 2
G2	N1	S1	D2	L1	E1	E1 (Double Word Score)	RACK 3
K5	R1	A1	E1	L1	S1	C3 (5th Letter Double)	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 130-140
by JUDD
FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. *"Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words* are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). **SEE SOLUTION MONDAY**
3-25-99

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

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E1	L1	I1	D2	E1	D2		RACK 1 = 8
M3	I1	S1	S1	I1	L1	E1	RACK 2 = 62
T1	I1	N1	T1	I1	N1	G2	RACK 3 = 58
E1	N1	R1	I1	C3	H4		RACK 4 = 17

PAR SCORE 90-100 JUDD'S TOTAL 145

3-24-99

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G2	E1	E1	E1	E1	T1	X8 (Triple Word Score)	RACK 1
H4	S1	R1	T1	T1	U1	R1 (2nd Letter Double)	RACK 2
L1	G2	S1	I1	O1	N1	I1	RACK 3
R1	E1	A1	L1	I1	G2	L1 (Double Word Score)	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 110-120
by JUDD
FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). **SEE SOLUTION MONDAY**
3-26-99

WEEKEND PUZZLER

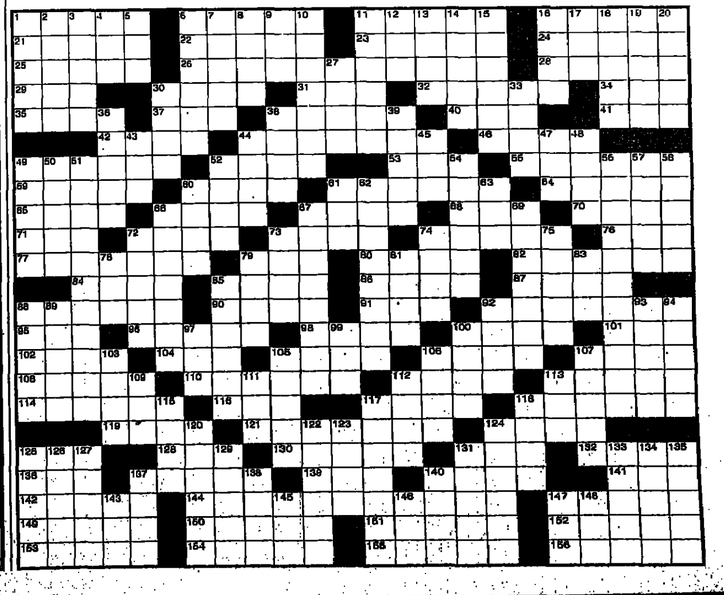
ACROSS

1 *Restaurants*
6 Woody or Gracie
11 Belt
16 Metric weights
21 Century plant
22 San —, Calif.
23 Make quiet
24 — free delivery
25 Marathon man
26 Not at all lucky
28 Kind of acid
29 Unclose, to a poet
30 Satiate
31 *Enemy*
32 Substantial
34 In days past
35 Wagers
37 "— a boy!"
38 Movie role for Arnold
40 Highways: abbr.
41 Drench
42 Damages
44 Early astronomer
46 Dismiss
49 Loosen
52 Chance of loss
53 Baby seal
55 Haphazard
59 Pitiable
60 Skin condition
61 Frightens
64 Bellini opera
65 Tackle box item
66 Legal wrong
67 Lake
68 Macaw genus
70 Lager
71 Rough calculation: abbr.
72 Attractive
73 Populated place
74 Like crackers
76 Mil. rank
77 Prepares leftovers
79 *Cake of soap*
80 Trick
82 Dorothy's home
84 "Tickle Me" doll
85 Slant
86 Samovars
87 Invisible particle
88 More difficult
90 *Hankering*
91 Holy woman: abbr.
92 Brutes
95 A wood
96 Shelf
98 Is in the red
100 Puerto —
101 Set of tools
102 Colonnade
104 Payable
105 "Woe is me!"
106 Be in a rage
107 Excellent
108 Fork tine
110 Offensively bold
112 Implores
113 Trace of color
114 Soaked
116 Perch
117 Glass containers
118 Ares or Mars: 2 wds.
119 Prophet
121 Reading desk
124 Gullible guys
125 Family member
128 Costa del —
130 Circus performer
131 See
132 Scottish caps
136 Doctors' org.
137 Seat at the bar
139 Stopped fasting
140 A pronoun
141 Cry of a crow
142 Hindu prince
144 Infantryman: 2 wds.
147 Got up
149 Push
150 Bar legally
151 Uncanny
152 Bag for money
153 Rabbits
154 Takes it easy
155 Smells very strongly
156 *Doctrine*

DOWN

1 *St. John's bread*
2 Wide open
3 Aspect
4 First woman
5 Preacher's talk: abbr.
6 Mature people
7 "Peanuts" character
8 Departed
9 The "I"
10 City in Virginia
11 Tattle
12 Capacious cask
13 *Paper quantity*
14 Modify
15 Asks for earnestly
16 Battleship —
17 Liquor
18 Operatic songs
19 Tropical fruit
20 Sailboat
27 Singer Braxton
30 Prepare for action
33 Emperor
36 Self-satisfied smile
38 Money
39 Neighbor of India
43 Every
44 Main idea
45 "— Town"
47 Tin
48 Rounded handle
49 Theater worker
50 Knotted loop
51 Fellowship
52 Uncommon
54 Singer Bailey and others
56 Seamstress' specialty
57 Greek letter
58 Stores
60 Decomposes
61 Scatter seed
62 Mixes up
63 — Lanka
66 Taught
67 Window on a ship
69 With a side glance
72 Dromedary
73 Soapstone
74 Ice cream holder
75 Barbecue locale
78 *Antiquity*
79 Mouthful
81 Table scraps
83 — de plume
85 Big cats
88 Hinged fastenings
89 Texas player
92 Objectives
93 Jargon
94 Equine animal
97 Name
99 Pale
100 Floor coverings
103 *Connectives*
105 Mexican Indian
106 Seedless plant
107 Gearshift position
109 A letter
111 Trouble
112 Farm structure
113 Spigot
115 Bird habitat
117 Gem seller
118 — and means
120 Construction worker
122 Embraces
123 "Oz" book dog
124 Steeples
125 Swamp
126 City in Nebraska
127 Primary course of study
129 Baggy
131 Arab chief
133 Oak-to-be
134 En — (in a body)
135 Saccharine
137 Female ones
138 A great deal
140 Exhaust
143 "— Maria"
145 Child
146 Billy — Williams
147 Fitting
148 Regret

SEE SOLUTION NEXT WEEKEND



CNBC

07:00 Market Watch
07:30 Europe Today
10:00 Market Watch
15:00 US CNBC Squawk Box
17:00 US Market Watch
19:00 Europe Tonight
20:00 US Power Lunch
21:00 US Street Signs
23:00 US Market Wrap
00:00 Europe Tonight(r)
01:30 NBC Nightly News
02:00 CNBC Asia Squawk Box
03:30 US Market Wrap(r)
04:00 Trading Day
06:00 US Business Centre
06:30 Lunch Money
FRIDAY
07:00 Market Watch
07:30 Europe Today
10:00 Market Watch
15:00 US CNBC Squawk Box
17:00 US Market Watch
19:00 Europe Tonight
20:00 US Power Lunch
21:00 US Street Signs
23:00 US Market Wrap
00:00 Europe Tonight(r)
01:30 NBC Nightly News
02:00 Europe This Week
03:00 Working With The Euro
03:30 US Street Signs(r)
05:30 US Market Wrap(r)
06:00 US Business Centre
06:30 Working With The Euro(r)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

00:00 Lost Civilisations Of Rio La Venta
01:00 Today
02:00 NBC Nightly News
02:30 Dateline NBC
03:30 Visions Of The Deep
04:00 Mixed Strand: 30 Years Of National Geographic
05:00 Family Hour: Horses That Build An Empire
05:30 Year Of The Flamebird
06:00 Wild! African Summer
07:00 Our Living World: Heartbeat In The Mangroves
07:30 Los Roques, Venezuela
08:00 Ocean Worlds: Diving With The Great Whales
09:00 Old Faith The New
09:30 Horseman Of The Pampas
10:00 Stolen River
11:00 Wild! Snake Invasion
11:30 Wild! Piranha
12:00 Ozone: Cancer Of The Sky
13:00 Giraffe Of Etosha
14:00 Wild! Ivory Pigs
15:00 River Valleys, Path Of The Rain God
16:00 Ocean Worlds: Mysteries Of The Twilight Zone
17:00 Last Of The Tinigua
18:00 Wild: Ivory Pigs
19:00 River Valleys, Path Of The Rain God
20:00 Ocean Worlds: Mysteries Of The Twilight Zone
21:00 Last Of The Tinigua
22:00 Ozone: Cancer Of The Sky
23:00 Giraffe Of Etosha
FRIDAY
00:00 Last Of The Tinigua
01:00 Today
02:00 NBC Nightly News
03:30 MSNBC Time & Again
04:00 Mixed Strand Love Those Trains
05:00 Family Hour Survival Of The Yellowstone Wolves
06:00 Wild Survival Game
07:00 Violent Earth: Flood
08:00 Ocean Worlds Fish From The Past
08:30 Ocean Worlds Cuttlefish
09:00 India Of Gods & Men: The Last Life Of Nirmala
10:00 Our Living World: River Valleys, Path Of The Rain God
11:00 Wild: Ivory Pigs
12:00 Mixed Strand: Ballad Of The Irish Horse
13:00 Family Hour Lifestyles Of The Wet & Muddy
14:00 Four Seasons Of The Stag
15:00 Violent Earth: Vanuatu Volcanoes
16:00 Ocean Worlds Treasures Of The Deep
17:00 People & Places: Nuclear Nomads
18:00 Four Seasons Of The Stag
19:00 Violent Earth: Vanuatu Volcanoes
20:00 Ocean Worlds: Treasures Of The Deep
21:00 People & Places: Nuclear Nomads
22:00 Mixed Strand: Ballad Of The Irish Horse
23:00 Family Hour Lifestyles Of The

EuroNews

07:00 News
11:15 Cinema
11:45 2000
12:15 Style
12:45 No Comment
13:15 Cult
13:45 International
14:15 Cinema
14:45 Globus
15:15 International
15:45 Europeans
16:15 Style
16:45 Visa
17:15 Cult
17:45 International
18:15 Cinema
18:45 Globus
19:15 Europeans
19:45 2000
20:15 News & Analysis
22:45 International
23:00 News & Analysis
23:45 Visa
00:00 News & Analysis
00:45 No Comment
01:00 News & Analysis
01:45 Europeans
02:15 Parlamento
02:45 Visa
FRIDAY
07:00 News
11:15 International
11:45 Globus
12:15 Europeans
12:45 No Comment
13:15 2000
13:45 Cult
14:15 Style
14:45 Cinema
15:15 International
15:45 Globus
16:15 Visa
16:45 Europeans
17:15 International
17:45 Prespectives
18:15 Style
18:45 2000
19:15 Perspectives
19:45 Visa
20:15 News & Analysis
22:45 Prespectives
23:00 News & Analysis
23:45 Cinema
00: 00 News & Analysis
01:45 Perspectives
02:15 International
02:45 Cult

DW

01:00 Journal-With Top Story
01:30 Germany: A Hundred Years
02:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
02:30 Europa Aktuell-Das Magazin Aus Brassel
03:00 Journal-With Top Story/ Journal-Con Tema Del Dia
03:30 Germany Today
04:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
04:30 Eine Orgel Fr Tokyo
05:00 Journal-With Top Story
05:30 Auto Motor Und Sport TV
06:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
06:30 Deutchland Heute
07:00 Journal-With Top Story
07:30 Germany: A Hundred Years
08:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
08:30 Europa Aktuell-Das Magazin Aus Brassel
09:00 Journal-With Top Story
09:30 Germany Today
10:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
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11:30 Auto Motor Und Sport TV
12:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
12:30 Deutschland Heute
13:00 Journal-With Top Story
13:30 Germany: A Hundred Years
14:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
14:30 Europa Aktuell-Das Magazin Aus Brassel
15:00 Journal-With Top Story
15:30 Germany Today
16:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
16:30 Bitte Einsteigen...!
17:00 Journal-With Top Story
17:30 Auto Motor Und Sport TV
18:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
18:30 Deutschland Heute
19:00 Journal-With Top Story
19:30 An Organ
20:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
20:30 Reiseland Deutschland
21:00 Journal-With Top Story
21:30 Germany Today
22:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema/ Journal-Con Tema Del Dia
22:30 Europa Semanal
23:00 Journal-With Top Story
23:30 European Journal-The European Magazine
00:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
00:30 Deutschland Heute
FRIDAY
01:00 Journal-With Top Story
01:30 An Organ
02:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
02:30 Reiseland Deutschland
03:00 Journal-Con Tema Del Dia /Journal-With Top Story
03:30 Germany Today
04:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
04:30 Bitte Einsteigen...!
05:00 Journal-With Top Story
05:30 European Journal-The European Magazine
06:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
06:30 Deutschland Heute
07:00 Journal-With Top Story
07:30 An Organ
08:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
08:30 Reiseland Deutschland
09:00 Journal-With Top Story
09:30 Germany Today
10:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
10:30 Bitte Einsteigen...!
11:00 Journal-With Top Story
11:30 European Journal-The European Magazine
12:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
12:30 Deutschland Heute
13:00 Journal-With Top Story
13:30 An Organ
14:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
14:30 Reiseland Deutschland
15:00 Journal-With Top Story
15:30 Germany Today
16:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
16:30 Die ZDF Reportage
17:00 Journal-With Top Story
17:30 European Journal-The European Magazine
18:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
18:30 Deutschland Heute
19:00 Journal-With Top Story
19:30 All Aboard!
20:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
20:30 Made In Germany-Das Wirtschaftsmagazin
21:00 Journal-With Top Story
21:30 Germany Today
22:00 Journal-Con Tema Del Dia Journal-Mit Tagesthema
22:30 Die ZDF Reportage
23:00 Journal-With Top Story
23:30 Destination Germany
00:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
00:30 Deutschland Heute

TV5

07:00 Journal
TV5
07:15 Gourmandises
07:30 Telematin
09:00 TV5 Minutes et meteo
09:05 Journal de Radio-Canada
09:35 4 et Demi
10:00 TV5 Minutes
10:05 Claire Lamarche
11:00 TV5 Minutes
11:05 Reference
11:30 Espace Francophone
12:00 TV5 Minutes
12:05 Zig Zag CafÈ
12:30 Gourmandises
13:00 TV5 Minutes
13:05 Voila Paris
13:30 Journal de France 3
14:00 Envoyé Special
16:00 Journal International TV5
16:15 Comment ca Va
17:15 Pyramide
17:45 Bus et Compagnie
18:30 TV5 Minutes
19:35 Jeu
19:00 Questions pour un Champion
19:30 Journal TV5
20:00 Voila Paris
20:27 Un Livre Un Jour
20:30 Journal de La TSR
21:00 Special Cinema
23:00 Journal de France Television
23:30 Special Cinema
01:25 Meteo Internationale
01:30 Journal de France 3
02:00 Journal de la RTBF
02:30 Le Cercle
04:00 Alice
04:30 Musique Musiques
05:00 TV5 Minutes
05:05 4 et Demi
05:30 Pyramide
Friday
07:00 Journal TV5
07:15 Gourmandises
07:30 Telematin
09:00 TV5 Minutes et meteo
09:05 Journal de Radio-Canada
09:35 4 et Demi
10:00 TV5 Minutes
10:05 Le Point
11:00 TV5 Minutes
11:05 Mediterraneo
11:30 Portrait
11:50 Correspondance
12:00 TV5 Minutes
12:05 Zig Zag CafÈ
12:30 Gourmandises
13:00 TV5 Minutes
13:05 Voila Paris
13:30 Journal de France 3
14:00 Le Monde De TV5
16:00 Journal International TV5
16:15 Temps Present
17:15 Pyramide
17:45 Bus et Compagnie
18:30 TV5 Minutes
19:35 Jeu
19:00 Questions pour un Champion
19:30 Journal TV5
20:00 Voila Paris
20:27 Un Livre Un Jour
20:30 Journal de La TSR
21:00 Fort Boyard
22:30 Evasion
23:00 Journal de France Television
23:30 Divertissement
01:25 Meteo Internationale
01:30 Journal de France 3
02:00 Journal de la TSR
02:30 Musiques Au Coeur
04:00 Mediterraneo
04:30 Magellan
06:00 TV5 Minutes

Eurosport

Thursday
09:30 Rally
10:00 Figure Skating
11:30 Cart
13:00 Rally
13:30 Sleddog
14:00 LIVE Figure Skating: World Championships In Helsinki, Finland
17:30 Tennis
19:00 LIVE Figure Skating: World Championships In Helsinki, Finland
23:30 Tennis
00:30 Tennis
01:30 Trial
02:30 Close
FRIDAY
09:30 Golf
10:30 LIVE Rugby: 1999 Hong Kong Sevens
14:30 LIVE Figure Skating: World Championships In Helsinki, Finland
17:30 Tennis
19:00 LIVE Figure Skating: World Championships In Helsinki, Finland
23:30 Tennis
01:00 Xtrem Sports
02:00 Rugby
02:30 Close

BBC WORLD

02:00 BBC World News
02:30 World Living
03:00 BBC World News
03:30 Asia Today
03:45 World Business Report
04:00 BBC World News
04:30 Asia Today
04:45 World Business Report
05:00 BBC World News
05:30 Asia Today
05:45 World Business Report
06:00 BBC World News
06:30 USA Direct
07:00 BBC World News
07:30 World Focus
08:00 BBC World News
08:30 World Living
09:00 BBC World News
09:30 Hard Talk
10:00 BBC World News
10:30 World Focus
11:00 BBC World News
11:30 Hard Talk
12:00 BBC World News
12:30 World Living
13:00 The World Today
14:00 The World Today
14:30 Wild World
15:00 BBC World News
15:15 World Business Report
15:30 The World Today
16:30 World Living
17:00 BBC World News
17:30 Hard Talk
18:00 BBC World News
18:30 Moneywise
19:00 BBC World News
19:30 World Living
20:00 The World Today
21:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk
22:00 BBC World News
22:30 World Focus
FRIDAY
02:00 BBC World News
02:30 World Living
03:00 BBC World News
03:30 Asia Today
03:45 World Business Report
04:00 BBC World News
04:30 Asia Today
04:45 World Business Report
05:00 BBC World News
05:30 Asia Today
05:45 World Business Report
06:00 BBC World News
06:30 USA Direct
07:00 BBC World News
07:30 World Focus
08:00 BBC World News
08:30 World Living
09:00 BBC World News
09:30 Hard Talk
10:00 BBC World News
10:30 World Focus
11:00 BBC World News
11:30 Hard Talk
12:00 BBC World News
12:30 World Living
13:00 The World Today
14:00 The World Today
14:30 Wild World
15:00 BBC World News
15:15 World Business Report
15:30 The World Today
16:30 World Living
17:00 BBC World News
17:30 Hard Talk
18:00 BBC World News
18:30 Question Time India
19:30 World Living
20:00 The World Today
21:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk
22:00 BBC World News
22:30 World Focus
23:00 BBC World News

SHOWTIME / DISCOVERY CHANNEL

02:00 Great Mysteries And Myths
02:30 History's Turning Points
03:00 Extreme Machine
04:00 Discovery Profile Series
05:00 Go For It!
06:00 Ushuia
07:00 The New Explorers
08:00 Travelers
09:00 Lonely Planet
10:00 Intimate Escapes
10:30 Intimate Escapes
11:00 Eyewitness
11:30 Splat
12:00 Go For It!
13:00 The New Explorers
14:00 Travelers
15:00 Intimate Escapes
15:30 Intimate Escapes
16:00 Ushuaia
17:00 Lonely Planet
18:00 The Shark Files
19:00 Untamed Amazonia
20:00 Lonely Planet
21:00 Beyond 2000
21:30 Ultrascience III
22:00 Discovery Profile Series
23:00 Go For It!
00:00 Lonely Planet
01:00 Untamed Amazonia
FRIDAY
02:00 Lonely Planet
03:00 Beyond 2000
03:30 Ultrascience III
04:00 Discovery Profile Series
05:00 Go For It!
06:00 Ushuaia
07:00 The New Explorers
08:00 Travelers
09:00 Lonely Planet
10:00 Intimate Escapes
10:30 Intimate Escapes
11:00 Eyewitness
11:30 Splat
12:00 Go For It!
13:00 Great Mysteries And Myths
13:30 History Turning Points
14:00 The Ultimate Guide
15:00 Eyewitness
15:30 Paleoworld
16:00 Wild Discovery
17:00 Going Wild
17:30 Two Worlds
18:00 Eyewitness
18:30 Paleoworld
19:00 Danger Zone
19:30 Medical Detectives
20:00 Challenge
21:00 Ushuaia
22:00 Wings
23:00 Go For It!
00:00 Lonely Planet
01:00 Danger Zone
01:20 Medical Detectives

MTV

02:00 The Grind
02:30 Night Videos
07:00 Kickstart
08:00 Top Selection
09:00 Kickstart
10:00 Non Stop Hits
13:00 MTV Data Videos
14:00 Non Stop Hits
17:00 Select MTV
19:00 US Top 20
20:00 So 90's
21:00 Top Selection
22:00 MTV Data Videos
23:00 Amour
00:00 MTV ID
01:00 Alternative Nation
FRIDAY
03:00 The Grind
03:30 Night Videos
07:00 Kickstart
08:00 Top Selection
09:00 Kickstart
10:00 Non Stop Hits
13:00 MTV Data Videos
14:00 Non Stop Hits
17:00 Select MTV
19:00 Dance Floor Chart
21:00 Top Selection
22:00 MTV Data Videos
23:00 Amour
00:00 MTV ID
01:00 Party Zone

MTV

04:00 Wimzie's House
04:30 Blues Clues
05:00 Mr Men
05:05 Mr Men
05:10 Mr Men
05:15 The Wombles
06:30 The Busy World Of Richard Scarry
06:00 Dr Seuss
06:30 Doug
07:00 Hey Arnold
07:30 Rocko's Modern Life
08:00 Rugrats
08:30 Rugrats
09:00 Angry Beavers
09:30 Real Monsters
10:00 Space Goofs
10:30 Kablam
11:00 The Adventures Of Pete & Pete
11:30 Cousin Skeeter
12:00 Saved By The Bell
12:30 Clarissa Explains It All
13:00 Doug
13:30 Hey Arnold
14:00 Angry Beavers
14:30 Kablam
15:00 Rugrats
15:30 Rugrats
16:00 Cousin Skeeter
16:30 Saved By The Bell
FRIDAY
04:00 Wimzie's House
04:30 Blues Clues
05:00 Mr Men
05:05 Mr Men
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13:30 Hey Arnold
14:00 Angry Beavers
14:30 Kablam
15:00 Rugrats
15:30 Rugrats
16:00 Cousin Skeeter
16:30 Saved By The Bell

VH-1

02:00 Double Impact
04:00 Night Of The Generals
06:30 Cyrano De Bergerac
09:00 The Swan Princess
10:30 Inside Hollywood
11:00 New: Ernest Goes To Africa
12:30 Black Sheep
14:00 Street Fighter
16:00 Cactus Flower
18:00 The Big Chill
20:00 Big Thursday Movie: The Patriot
21:30 Inside Hollywood
22:00 Mary Shelley's Frankenstein
00:00 Pacific Heights
FRIDAY
02:00 The Getaway
04:00 Omega Doom
05:30 Ernest Goes To Africa
07:00 Lawrence Of Arabia
10:30 New: Lord Jim
13:00 Inside Hollywood
13:30 Blankman
15:00 Jumanji
17:00 Soldier's Fortune
18:30 Mother May I Sleep With Danger
20:00 Friday Mega Movie: Albino Alligator
22:00 High School High
23:30 The Perez Family
01:30 Inside Hollywood
02:00 Star Trek-The Next Generation
03:00 Silk Stalking
04:00 Powerboat & Jetsport World 1998 Series
04:30 Pacific Blue
05:30 Acapulco Heat
06:30 The Premier Match
08:30 Inside Edition
09:00 Pacific Blue
10:00 Early Edition
11:00 Nightman
12:00 Air America
13:00 Cupid
14:00 Pacific Blue
15:00 The Net
16:00 Star Trek-The Next Generation
17:00 Early Edition
18:00 Trazan
18:30 Nightman
19:30 Air American
20:30 Fantasy Island
21:30 Silk Stalking
22:30 The Premier Match
00:30 Powerboat & Jetsport World 1998 Series
01:00 Nightman
FRIDAY
02:00 Star Trek
03:00 Silk Stalking
04:00 Powerboat & Jetsport World 1998 Series
04:30 Pacific Blue
05:30 The Commish
06:30 The Premier Match
08:30 Trazan
09:00 Pacific Blue
10:00 Early Edition
11:00 Nightman
12:00 Air American
13:00 The Commish
14:00 Pacific Blue
15:00 Fantasy Island
16:00 Star Trek-The Next Generation
17:00 Early Edition
18:00 Premier League Preview
18:30 Nightman
19:30 Air American
20:30 Dark Skies
21:30 Silk Stalkings
22:30 The Premier Match
00:30 Powerboat & Jetsport World 1998 Series
01:00 Nightman

VH-1

02:00 Greatest Hits Of...Madonna
03:00 More Music
08:00 Power Breakfast
10:00 Pop-Up Video
11:00 VH1 Upbeat
14:00 Ten Of The Best: Billy Joel
15:00 Greatest Hits Of
15:18 Pop-Up Video
16:00 Jukebox
18:18 VH1 To One-Elton And Billy
19:00 Five @ Five
19:18 Pop-Up Video-Elton John Special
20:00 Happy Hour With Clare Grogan
21:00 VH1 Hits
22:00 Greatest Hits Of...: Elton John
23:00 Bob Mills' Big 80's
00:00 Storytellers-Elton John
01:00 Greatest Hits Of...: Elton John
FRIDAY
02:00 Pop-Up Video
02:18 VH1 To One: Elton And Billy
03:00 VH1 Spice
04:00 VH1 Late Shift
08:00 Power Breakfast
10:00 Pop-Up Video
11:00 VH1 Upbeat
14:00 Ten Of The Best: Adam Ant
15:00 Greatest Hits Of...: Disco
16:18 Pop-Up Video
16:00 Jukebox
18:00 Behind The Music
19:00 Five @ Five
19:18 Pop-Up Video
20:00 Something For The Weekend
21:00 Greatest Hits Of...: The Movies
21:18 Talk Music
22:00 Pop-Up Video
22:18 VH1 Party Hits
23:00 The Kate & Jono Show
00:00 The Best Of Live At VH1
00:18 Crowded House-Take It To The Bridge Special
01:00 VH1 Spice

Orbit

02:30 Mr. And Mrs. Smith
03:25 Married With Children
03:50 Homicide: Life On The Streets
04:40 Highlander The Series
05:30 Police Academy
06:20 Sunset Beach
07:10 Phenom
07:35 The Powers That Be
08:00 Sunday Dinner
08:25 Home Fires
09:40 Dweeds
09:15 Thea
09:40 Street Justice
10:30 Local Heroes
10:55 Highlander: The Series
11:45 Police Academy
12:35 Sunset Beach
13:25 Phenom
14:05 The Powers That Be
14:15 Sunday Dinner
14:40 Home Fires
15:05 Dweeds
15:30 Thea
15:55 Street Justice
16:45 Local Heroes
17:10 High Society
17:35 Hanging With Mr Cooper
18:00 Love Boat: The Next Wave
19:00 Friends
19:30 Drew Carey
20:00 Seinfeld
20:30 Just Shoot Me
21:00 ER
22:00 Mr. And Mrs. Smith
23:00 The Client
00:00 Mad About You
00:25 Cosby
00:50 Party Of Five
01:40 Bella Mafia
FRIDAY
02:30 Bella Mafia
03:25 Married With Children
03:50 Homicide: Life On The Streets
04:40 Early Edition
05:30 Anyday Now
06:20 Sunset Beach
07:10 Phenom
07:35 The Powers That Be
08:00 Mighty Jungle
08:25 Suger & Spice
08:50 Dweeds
09:05 Thea
09:40 Street Justice
10:30 Common Law
10:55 Early Edition
11:45 Anyday Now
12:35 Sunset Beach
13:25 Phenom
14:05 The Powers That Be
14:15 Mighty Jungle
14:40 Suger & Spice
15:05 Dweeds
15:30 Thea
15:55 Street Justice
16:45 Common Justice
17:10 Forever Knight
18:00 The Client
19:00 Mad About You
19:30 Cosby
20:00 Party Of Five
21:00 Beverly Hills 90210
22:00 (TBC)
23:00 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman
00:00 Caroline In The City
00:25 Murphy Brown
00:50 Anyday Now
01:40 Veronica's Closet
02:05 Suddenly Susan

MOVIES

04:00 Striptease
06:00 Other Side Of The Law
08:00 Shoot To Kill
10:00 Ambition
12:00 Extreme Measures
14:00 El Norte
16:00 The Glimmer Man
18:00 Strapped
20:00 Stanley And Iris
22:00 Rosewood
00:00 Dr. Jekyll Mrs Hyde
02:00 Rosewood
FRIDAY
04:00 Shootfighter II
06:00 Hackers
08:00 City Of Hope
10:00 Joe Vs The Volcano
12:00 Eraser
14:00 The Dark Wind
16:00 Rain Man
18:00 Mistrial
20:00 Selena
22:00 Wilt
00:00 Natural Born
02:00 Wilt

HOLLYWOOD

04:30 Fashion Emergency
05:00 El FYE
05:30 Judge Judy
06:00 Regis And Kathy Lee(r)
07:00 El Behind The Velvet Rope
07:30 El Dining With Style
08:00 El Coming Attractions
08:30 Sally Jessy Raphael
09:30 El Uncut
10:00 El News Weekend
11:00 El Q & E
11:30 Jeopardy
12:00 Wheel Of Fortune
12:30 Hollywood Squares
13:00 Regis & Kathy Lee
14:00 El Coming Attractions
14:30 El FYE
15:00 El Uncut
15:30 The View
16:30 El Fashion Emergency
17:00 El Celebrity Profiles
18:00 El Behind The Scenes
18:30 El Coming Attractions
19:00 El FYE
19:30 Judge Judy
20:00 El News Week-End(r)
21:00 Mysteries & Scandals
21:30 Videofashion
22:00 El Fashion Emergency(r)
22:30 Late Show With David Letterman
23:30 The Best Of El Mysteries & Scandals
00:00 South Beach Model Search
00:30 South Beach Model Search
01:00 The View(r)
FRIDAY
04:30 Fashion Emergency
05:00 El FYE
05:30 Judge Judy
06:00 Regis And Kathy Lee(r)
07:00 Main Floor
07:30 El Homes With Style
08:00 El Coming Attractions
08:30 Sally Jessy Raphael
09:30 El Uncut
10:00 El Gossip Week-End
11:00 El Q & E
11:30 Jeopardy
12:00 Wheel Of Fortune
12:30 Hollywood Squares
13:00 Regis & Kathy Lee
14:00 El Behind The Scenes
14:30 El Extreme Close Up
15:00 El Cut To The Chase(r)
15:30 The View
16:30 Arts & Minds
17:00 El In Focus
18:00 Inside The Actor's Studio: Meg Ryan
19:00 El Behind The Scenes: You've Got Mail
19:30 Judge Judy
20:00 El Gossip Week-End(r)
21:00 Roseanne Meets Sharon Stone
22:00 Arts & Minds(r)
22:30 Late Show With David Letterman
23:30 The Best Of El Mysteries & Scandals
00:00 El Wild On
01:00 The View(r)

CINEMA CITY

01:00 Coming Home
03:00 Escape Clause
05:00 Any Which Way You Can
07:00 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
09:00 Tom Thumb
11:00 Seven Brides For Seven Brothers
13:00 Seven Hoods
15:00 Splendor In The Grass
17:00 Rocky III
19:00 Logan's Run
21:00 Being There
23:00 Night Moves
FRIDAY
01:00 Being There
03:00 Night Moves
05:00 Logan's Run
07:00 Robin And The Seven Hoods
09:00 Splendor In The Grass
11:00 Rocky III
13:00 Bullitt
15:00 Butterfield 8
17:00 Moby Dick
19:00 The Asphalt Jungle
21:00 Pennies From Heaven
23:00 Under Fire

FUTURE TV

12:00 Home Video
13:15 Cartoons
14:00 Movie Magic
14:30 Video Clips
15:30 Family Movie
18:30 Great Romances
20:00 News
20:30 Bravo
FRIDAY
10:20 Agenda Cultural
11:15 Home Video
15:30 Adrenaline
16:30 Disney Club
18:00 My So Called Life
18:00 Stade
20:00 News
20:30 Funniest Home Video.

LBC

06:00 Arabic Vedio-Clip
07:00 Captain Majed
08:30 Budgie
14:00 Flash News/Live
15:15 Gillette Sports Special
16:15 Pino
19:00 L.A. Heat
20:00 News
FRIDAY
06:00 Arabic Video-Clip
14:00 Flash News/Live
16:15 Pino
19:30 Tele-Auto
20:00 News
01:00 Sports

TV5

07:00 Le Journal 07:15 Betes Pas Betes
07.30 News Headlines
07.33 PAYSAGES
08.00 World of Museums
08:30 Dr. Quin
09:15 Encounter
10.00 News at Ten
10.30 Movie
FRIDAY
07:00 Le Journal
07:15 Great Moments In SCI & Tech
07.30 News Headlines
07:33 Serie Le Paris
08:30 Startrek
09:15 BBC Single Doc.
10:00 News at Ten
10:30 Millenium

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Biblical prophet
7 Similar compound
13 Tender
14 Angry outburst
15 Severe experience
16 Former Soviet leader
17 Eye drop
18 Tell tales
20 Require
21 Chicks and ducks and geese
23 Actress Christine
27 Maid — — (wedding attendant)
32 Backless chair
33 Silly
34 Blacksmith's block
35 Strong-smelling
36 Like many sandals
39 Jogs
40 Eats to lose
42 English professors
46 Guardian spirit
47 School of modern art
51 Conceive
53 Line on a weather map
55 Author Miller
56 Apartment dweller
57 Enthusiastic
58 Effaces

DOWN

1 "— — Rhythm"
2 Dry
3 Time — — half
4 Roman route
5 — — carte
6 "Greetings!"
7 Neuter pronoun
8 Perch
9 Algerian seaport
10 Masculine
11 Singer Adams
12 Tear
19 — Jima
21 Not hollow
22 Work periods
23 Future atty.'s exam
24 — — time (never)
25 Lifted, nautically
26 Hard labor
28 Unique person
29 Western defense org.
30 "Step — — !"
31 Cincinnati ball club
37 Like the "e" in "like"
38 Billowy expanse
41 Banal
42 Actress Merrill
43 Aroma
44 High-school social misfit
45 Ditto
47 Spanish lady's title
48 Arabian garments
49 Northern European
50 Academic subjects
52 Treat leather
54 Sun.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	R	I	D	E	S		F	L	I	G	H	T
O	O	M	I	A	K		O	I	L	I	E	R
G	A	M	E	T	E		O	N	E	D	G	E
U	M	U		I	S	T			E	I	N	
S	E	R	A		N	O	R		C	O	R	D
	R	E	L	Y		C	A	B	A	N	A	
		P	U	N		C	U	T				
		I	R	A		E	R	N				
B	A	N	I	S	H		T	A	K	E		
E	I	R	E		T	I	C		P	A	C	E
B	L	T		I	T	E			R	I	B	
S	C	H	E	M	E		D	O	N	A	T	E
E	X	U	D	E	S		E	D	I	T	O	R
D	I	R	E	S	T		D	E	M	E	N	T

See solution Monday

REASONS TO CELEBRATE

THURSDAY

This is Maryland Day...commemorating the arrival of Lord Baltimore's first settlers in Maryland in 1634.

Today is Pecan Day. On this date in 1775, George Washington planted some pecan trees at Mount Vernon. George had gotten the trees from his buddy, Thomas Jefferson. Some of the trees still survive to this day.

And Greece celebrates Independence Day.

FRIDAY

This is Legal Assistant Day...a day recognizing the many contributions made by legal assistants to the law profession. Hawaii celebrates Kuhio Day...honoring the birthday of Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaole, Hawaii's second delegate to Congress.

Today is Make Up Your Own Holiday Day.

And Bangladesh celebrates Independence Day...marking the date in 1971 when it achieved independence from West Pakistan.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Very big wife of Homer (1)
2. Actor Richard's Budweisers (1)
3. Full baseball line-up sparkles (1)
4. Kimono sashes of b-baller Bryant (2)
5. Jumble in a roof drainage pipe (2)
6. Easily cracked pin in ninepins (2)
7. Holiday taken from appeasement-making (3)

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3-25-99

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S WORDY GURDY

1. CHIN SKIN 2. EYED GUIDE 3. THAMES GEMS 4. CARRY BARRY 5. GREATER SKATER 6. FAKING BRAKING 7. CHESTERS JESTERS

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Clay cartoon family's spinners (2)
2. Errand at a grocery shop (1)
3. Untrue long time friend (2)
4. Give care, like a podiatrist (1)
5. If you will, give a bear hug (1)
6. President Harry's light measures (2)
7. Rough struggles in Belgian capital (2)

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS WEEKEND PUZZLER

S	T	A	K	E		S	T	R	A	Y		S
H	A	V	E	N		T	R	I	C	E		T
A	M	E	N	D		R	O	L	E	S		I
P	E	R		S	W	I	P	E	S		B	R
E	S	T	E		A	V	I	D		F	O	R
		A	Z	T	E	C		J	O	N	E	S
D	E	G	R	E	E	S		L	A	Y	E	R
E	R	A	S	E	R		T	A	P	E	R	
V	A	T			C	I	G	A	R		B	E
I	T	E	M		W	O	M	E	N		C	O
L	O	S	E		E	V	E	R		C	H	O
		G	R	E	E	D		T	H	O	R	N
S	S	T		O	P	T		G	R	I	P	S
H	A	R	A	S	S		T	R	A	M	S	
I	R	A	T	E		S	U	E	D	E		G
P	A	C	T			A	L	E	E		F	L
S	H	E	E	P	S	K	I	N		M	O	O
		S	L	E	E	P		P	O	U	R	S
M	O	R	T	A	R		S	A	D	L	Y	
A	D	A		N	E	C	K	T	I	E	S	
R	O	D	I	N		H	A	I	R	S		B
C	R	I	M	E		I	N	L	E	T		B
	S	O	A	R		N	E	E	D	Y		C

C	O	M	A									
A	P	O	R	T								
L	E	V	E	E								
A	Y		I	N	N							
U	P	B	E	A	T							
T	E	N	S	E								
D	I	S	T	O	R	T	E	D				
L	I	M	A									
S	I	M	O	N								
F	I	N	I	T	E							
H	A	G		D	E	S						
C	O	I	N	S								
O	B	O	L									
S	O	L	O									
R	I	P										
D	E	R	I	V	E							
F	O	C	U	S	E	D						
W	E	L	L	S								
M	A	S	O	N								
E	E	L										
L	L	A	M	A								
S	P	E	N	T								

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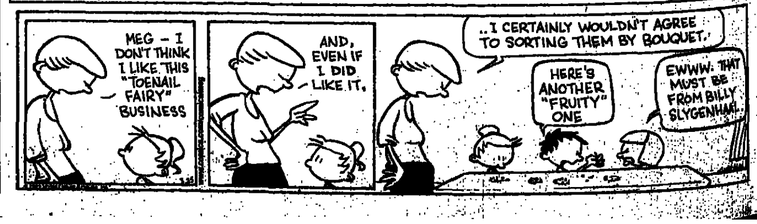
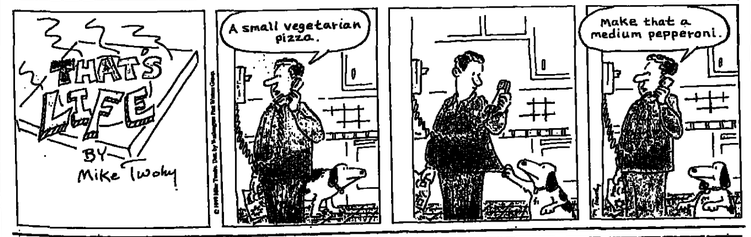
PICKLES — BY BRIAN CRANE

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE — BY LYNN JOHNSTON

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